



National Minority Supplier
Development Council

Advancing Economic
Equity Together

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

Dear Chairman Cardin,

The National Minority Supplier Development Council's (NMSDC) strongly supports the Federal Contracting Fairness Act of 2022. We believe this legislation is an important step towards addressing racial and economic inequality in our country.

The federal government is the world's largest consumer, spending over \$650 billion on goods and services in FY 2020. These dollars are spent on contracts with businesses to improve access to health care services, improve infrastructure, and protect natural resources. Contracting represents a large share of market's consumers and is a great way for small businesses, especially minority owned small businesses to build customers and revenue.

Furthermore, small businesses, particularly minority owned small businesses are often shut out of contracting opportunities. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), in FY 2020, minority-owned small businesses received only 9.4% of contracting dollars despite 19% of U.S. employer businesses being minority owned. As the largest buyer of goods and services, the federal government must do better.

Established in 1978, the 8(a) business development program is a robust nine-year program that helps businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. The program provides small business development training namely management, technical, financial, and procurement assistance. The SBA partners with federal agencies to promote maximum utilization of the 8(a) program and ensure equitable access to federal contracting opportunities.

This Federal Contracting Fairness Act of 2022 aims to improve the 8(a) business development program to better serve socially and economically disadvantaged business owners participating in the program — improving their ability to compete for federal contracts, maximizing their time in the program, and streamlining administrative processes.

NMSDC is the longest-operating business growth engine for the broadest group of systematically excluded communities of color (Asian-Indian, Asian-Pacific, Black, Hispanic, and Native American). Our certified minority business enterprises (MBEs) generate \$400 billion in economic output annually. We create and sustain 1.75 million jobs. This legislation will create increased opportunities for MBEs served by NMSDC. By creating increased opportunities for these businesses, the federal government will lead the movement to create a more equitable and resilient U.S. economy capable of rising to the challenges of a post-COVID world.

We urge you and the rest of U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to support this important piece of legislation and thank you for your tireless work on these important economic issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ying McGuire".

Ying McGuire
CEO and President
National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)

Advocate. Certify. Develop. Connect.
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