



September 29, 2022

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cardin and Senator Duckworth:

On behalf of the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (CRMSDC), I am writing to express our support for the Federal Contracting Fairness Act of 2022 (MIR22911).

This program will improve the federal contracting programs of the Small Business Administration.

Specifically:

- This legislation is a critical next step toward closing the wealth gap for the 9.7 million minority businesses across this country. It offers substantial improvement to the 8a program as it has been operating for decades.
The proposed ramp-up will allow MBEs to receive training before their ten-year clock starts.
The streamlining of certification rules will support a more effective method of certification.
Increasing sole-source thresholds addresses many concerns of growth in the program. Businesses can then get larger contracts and increase their profitability.
An effective mentor-protége program is excellent. And melding that with an HBCU contract is most effective. It allows HBCUs to receive training and support future tech transfers.
Increasing contract procurement staff funding should help ensure MBEs have increased contract access.

What we find promising is the legislation that requires the SBA to investigate and report on ways to get non-ANC and non-Hawaiian organizations to obtain more lucrative 8a sole source contracts successfully.

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Thank you for this opportunity and the work that will lead to supporting more minority businesses.

Sincerely,



Sharon R. Pinder  
President & CEO  
Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council

