

MARKUP OF: H.R. 6445, "SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IMPROVEMENT ACT  
OF 2022" H.R. 6441, "WOMEN'S BUSINESS  
CENTERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022" H.R.  
6450, "SCORE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ACT OF  
2022" H.R. 4877, "ONE STOP SHOP FOR SMALL  
BUSINESS COMPLIANCE ACT OF 2021" H.R.  
6454, "SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY  
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2022"

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 2360, Rayburn House Office Building and on Zoom. Hon. Sharice Davids [member of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Davids, Golden, Crow, Mfume, Phillips, Newman, Bourdeaux, Carter, Chu, Evans, Delgado, Houlahan, Andy Kim, Craig, Luetkemeyer, Williams, Hagedorn, Stauber, Meuser, Tenney, Garbarino, Young Kim, Van Duyne, Donalds, Salazar, and Fitzgerald.

Ms. DAVIDS. Good morning. With a quorum being present I call this morning's meeting of the Committee on Small Business to order.

Without objection, the Chair is authorized to declare a recess at any time.

First, I want to start off by stating that I have the pleasure of chairing this hearing in place of Chairwoman Velázquez who is unable to attend.

I would like to begin by noting some important requirements. Let me begin by saying that standing House and Committee rules and practice will continue to apply during hybrid proceedings. All Members are reminded that they are expected to adhere to these standing rules including decorum.

House regulations require Members to be visible through a video connection throughout the proceeding, so please keep your cameras on. Also, please remember to remain muted until you are recognized to minimize background noise.

For those Members and staff physically present in the Committee room today, in accordance with the attending physician's most recent guidance, all Members and staff who attend this hy-

brid markup in person will be required to wear masks in the hearing room.

As required by House rules, copies of the measures have been made available to Members and the public at least 24 hours in advance.

Small businesses are the cornerstones of our communities and have been hit hard throughout the pandemic. It is important that we come together to ensure small businesses across the country have access to SBA programs that will help them thrive.

SBA offers a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem that offers free or low-cost counseling and training to small business owners across the country. Whether it is helping to create a business plan, navigating the procurement process, marketing a new product, or identifying trade opportunities, SBA, through its resource partners, offers a wide range of services and helps more than a million small business owners every year. These programs have a proven track record of success in assisting America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Throughout this Congress, we have consistently asked our witnesses, how can we better assist America's small businesses? Are SBA's entrepreneurial development programs working effectively? How can the Committee modernize and expand their reach? We have heard time and time again that SBA's entrepreneurial development programs are vital to small employers and access to them is pivotal to success. Witnesses also shared that more can be done to expand their reach, particularly in rural and traditionally underserved areas. This Committee has taken what we learned to heart and crafted three bipartisan bills to strengthen the counseling and training programs at SBA.

In addition to those three bills, we are considering a bill that would improve access to federal small business compliance guides and a bill that would ensure American small business interests are represented on the global stage.

The five bills the Committee is considering today are H.R. 6445, the "Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2022," introduced by Mr. Golden and cosponsored by Mr. Hagedorn; H.R. 6441, the "Women's Business Centers Improvement Act of 2022," introduced by myself and cosponsored by Ms. Tenney; H.R. 6450, the "SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022," introduced by Mrs. Young Kim and cosponsored by Ms. Craig; H.R. 4877, the "One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2021," introduced by Mr. Delgado and cosponsored by Ms. Van Duyne; and finally, H.R. 6454, the "Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2022," introduced by Ranking Member Luetkemeyer and Mr. Carter.

I am proud to be lending my strong support for these five bipartisan bills. I want to thank the Ranking Member and his staff for collaborating on this package. I would also like to thank all our Members on both sides of the aisle for their efforts to improve SBA's programs.

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Luetkemeyer, for his opening statement.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair, for holding this markup on legislation that I think will continue to put the nation's job creators first.

Small businesses in every shape and form continue to feel the devastating effects of strong economic headwinds, from the highest inflation rate in 40 years to supply chain issues, to labor shortages that have left the nation with 10.9 million open jobs, small businesses are facing severe economic conditions. Too often, storefronts and other main street businesses have had to reduce hours or change their operations due to these challenges.

However, small business owners and their employees are some of the most resilient workers in America. This is apparent through their innovation and risk taking. These are the characteristics that drive our economy to new heights. These are the factors that support our communities and neighbors. These are the qualities that build our next entrepreneurs.

When small business owners are able to plan with certainty and make calculated risks, our nation moves forward.

Now, let me tell you, our nation is not short of great business concepts or ideas that could turn into the next great American product or service. Unfortunately, all too often the federal government gets in their way. This is why it was a victory for small businesses when the vaccine mandate was halted.

Congress must be aware of these federal policies that disadvantage the nation's true job creators. Pro-growth policies work. They put small business owners in charge instead of the federal government. We know we must create a small business environment that fosters expansion, prudent risk taking, and job growth.

At the same time, it is also critical to examine the federal agency that was created to assist and help the nation's small businesses, and that is what we are here today to discuss.

The COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in new awareness of the Small Business Administration's tools and services. Millions of small businesses now have a better understanding of the SBA. Given this heightened attention, the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs must be right-sized and recalibrated to meet the needs of today's business workers and owners.

Today's markup will feature three bills that improve the SBA's Small Business Development Centers program, the SBA's Women's Business Centers program, and the SBA's SCORE program. Additionally, the Committee will look to enhance and streamline information that is published by agencies as it pertains to the impact of federal regulations on small businesses. Federal regulations have an outside impact on small businesses, and we need to take a look at those. We must work to ensure regulatory red tape is limited and H.R. 4877 is a step in this direction.

Lastly, the Committee will examine my bill to bolster the SBA's independent Office of Advocacy and its role in reporting on international economic matters. Having an independent voice that speaks on behalf of small business is critical to all trade matters. H.R. 6454 will ensure the SBA's Office of Advocacy does just that.

Every piece of legislation before us today will work for and on behalf of the nation's small businesses, entrepreneurs, startups, and innovators. These are important reforms that need our attention.

I would like to thank each Member for working with their colleagues to address and highlight these matters. Additionally, I would like to thank the Chair for working to advance these bipartisan bills. It is important to remember, when small businesses are growing, so is our economy.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that this Committee needs to continue to examine the approximately \$1 trillion in COVID relief that flowed to small businesses over the last 2 years. A part of this examination is hearing from administration officials in charge of these programs. Unfortunately, Secretary Yellen, who is required by law to testify before this Committee, and thus far, she has refused to do so. She continues to turn her back on small businesses. This cannot be allowed to continue. She is also required by this same law to report to this Committee two times this coming year. Will she finally show up? Will she finally do her statutory duty? Who knows? The bottom line is that she needs to finally submit to the law, discontinue her blatant disregard for the law and this Committee.

With that, Madam Chair, I look forward to today's markup and I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields back.

Before we get into the individual bills, are there any Members present who seek recognition for the purpose of making an opening statement?

Seeing none, we will move to consideration of H.R. 6445, the "Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2022," introduced by Representative Golden and cosponsored by Representative Hagedorn. This bill would modernize and improve the Small Business Development Centers program.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Maine, Mr. Golden, the sponsor of the bill for an opening statement.

H.R. 6445

Mr. GOLDEN. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Small business development centers (SBDCs) are SBA's largest resource partner. In Maine, the state's lead SBDC runs 11 outreach locations in my district. Maine's SBDCs have an annual impact that includes advising 2,956 small businesses.

The impact that SBDC services have on local business owners should not be underestimated. I have heard from numerous business owners about the great value they found in SBDC services. Some of them have said things to myself in meetings or to SBDC staff in the district or to my team back home in Maine—things like the following:

"Risking everything we had to pursue dreams of starting our own business was terrifying but access to our local SBDC program and advisors gave us tools we needed to persevere over the many hurdles confronting small business startups."

"We cannot stress enough how invaluable we have found their services to be."

Another success story is a veteran-owned Frenchman Bay Oyster Company. The owner, Graham, who I know well, told my staff that his relationship with the Maine SBDC is irreplaceable. He worked with an SBDC advisor on a business plan and a successful grant application that is helping him to grow his business.



As impressive as these stories and statistics are, they represent only a fraction of Maine's 33,500 small businesses. My bipartisan bill, the "Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2022," H.R. 6445, will help more small businesses access these services in two ways.

First, by clarifying that centers are allowed to market their services, it will address the common feedback I hear that Maine small businesses do not know about the valuable resources that SBDCs provide. Greater awareness of the services available through these programs will allow more small businesses to receive entrepreneurial assistance without imposing any more financial burdens on SBDCs, the SBA, or the taxpayer.

Second, it will increase SBDC's capacity and impact by raising their funding authorization by \$40 million annually. Along with other provisions in the bill, these changes will help small businesses across the country reach their full potential.

I would like to thank Mr. Hagedorn, the Chairwoman, the Ranking Member, and their staff for their bipartisan work in support of this important program and I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. Hagedorn, for an opening statement.

Mr. Hagedorn, you are muted currently.

Mr. HAGEDORN. How about that? Is that better?

Ms. DAVIDS. Sounds good.

Mr. HAGEDORN. Okay. Madam Chair, thank you for the opportunity. I appreciate it very much and it is good to be with everyone on this really bipartisan day in small business and that is the way we should be doing our business. I am pleased that things are going along that way today. I want to thank my colleague, Representative Golden, Chairman Golden for his bipartisan work, and those on the Committee that want to help us move along with our small business development centers. This is an important bill that we have been working on for a little while and let's just face it, over the last 40 years America's small business development centers have served as a pillar for both emerging entrepreneurs and long-time small business owners alike. I have spoken with many people in my district who have really gotten their start or gotten a lot of help early on in order to get their businesses going through the small business development centers. Some of them are very lucrative businesses today so this is a program that is working and reauthorizing, it makes a lot of sense.

The services our SBDCs are able to offer have become increasingly critical to help ensure our main street business partners can survive through the COVID pandemic. Hopefully, we are turning the corner there, but it has been a long road here the last couple of years, no doubt about that. This legislation would reauthorize the SBDC program at \$175 million through fiscal year 2025 to further modernize and strengthen the SBDC network. Specifically, H.R. 6445 would increase much-needed oversight by requiring SBA to provide Congress with an annual report on program effectiveness while also enabling increased awareness of the services of the SBDC programs it has to offer. That is all by eliminating the prohi-

bition on marketing for SBDCs, some that are probably long overdue.

The feedback my office has received from small business owners often revolved around these businesses not having been aware of the SBDC services available to them. I guess there just was not enough marketing out there. We needed to make sure people knew what was going on. This bill is going to help in that regard. I am pleased that we are going to address these concerns through this legislation.

Minnesota's 1st District is home to two SBDC locations, the South Central Regional SBDC located at Rochester Community College and Technical College, and then, of course, the Southeast Regional SBDC located at Minnesota State University in Mankato. They have multiple satellite locations across Minnesota, especially southern Minnesota. Our SBDCs have been a lifeline to our small business owners and in some of the most hopeless and uncertain times they have helped get them through. It is important that the Committee act in bipartisan fashion to ensure these services continue to assist our small businesses in their long-term economic growth.

I humbly ask that my colleagues support H.R. 6445 and I yield back. Thank you.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you, Mr. Hagedorn. It is good to see you. The gentleman yields back.

Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 6445?

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. I would like to thank the gentleman from Maine, Mr. Golden, and the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. Hagedorn, for working on this legislation in the 117th Congress. This Congress, the Committee has heard from small business development centers (SBDCs) and small businesses who have benefitted from SBDC's services. Specifically, in March of last year, the Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Business Development heard from the Minnesota SBDC state director on the important work SBDCs conduct for small businesses. Small business development centers provide valuable resources to entrepreneurs and throughout the pandemic have supported countless small businesses in accessing SBA's COVID-19 relief programs. This important legislation will allow SBDCs to market their services and expand their network. This legislation also ensures SBDC's client information is protected and that cooperation, communication, and collaboration between the SBA and SBDC networks is improved.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6445 to modernize the SBDC program and ensure that SBDCs can continue their important services for small businesses.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize myself briefly.

The Small Business Development Centers program is SBA's largest resource partner, delivering vital management and technical assistance through a network of 62 lead centers and nearly 1,000 subcenters throughout the country.

Since the pandemic began, SBDCs have been inundated with a record number of requests for their services. In 2020, SBDCs provided counseling and training to almost 500,000 unique entrepreneurs and small business owners and helped clients start more than 17,000 small businesses and obtain \$8.4 billion in financing, a 70 percent increase from financing obtained in 2019.

First and foremost, this bill would reauthorize the program for 4 years and increase the authorization level to \$175 million for each fiscal year. To increase awareness of SBA's resource partners, the bill would expand the SBDC programs marketing and advertising authority. Finally, this bill, like the other entrepreneurial development bills we are considering today, would require an annual report to ensure that programs are working effectively and aligned with congressional intent.

Launching a business is not for the faint of heart. Strengthening the SBDC network will enable SBDCs to continue to provide in-depth business training for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners, which in turn will spur local economic development.

I want to thank Representative Golden and Representative Hagedorn for their bipartisan work on this bill and I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 6445.

The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 6445, the Small Business Development Centers—

Ms. DAVIDS. Without objection, H.R. 6445 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 6445.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 6445 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 6445 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. H.R. 6445 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes.

Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional, supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

Our second bill today is H.R. 6441, the "Women's Business Centers Improvement Act of 2022," introduced by myself and cosponsored by Congresswoman Tenney. H.R. 6441 would modernize and strengthen the Women's Business Centers program.

I would now like to recognize the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. Tenney, for an opening statement.

Ms. Tenney, I believe you are muted.

One more try. There we go.

Ms. TENNEY. How about now?

Ms. DAVIDS. There we go.

H.R. 6441

Ms. TENNEY. All right, good. Thanks.

As a long-time small business owner in upstate New York, I am in support of H.R. 6441, the Women's Business Centers Improvement Act legislation that I am honored to lead with Representative Davids, who has also spent some time in upstate New York and also attended Cornell University Law School, as did my dad many, many years ago.

Throughout our country, women-owned businesses employ 9.4 million workers and contribute \$1.2 trillion to our national economy. They play an important part in our communities and provide female entrepreneurs an invaluable opportunity to build wealth and care for their families.

Over the past 30 years, the Women's Business Center program has helped these entrepreneurs access greater resources and find opportunities to grow and build their businesses. Across the country there are now 150 locations providing a full range of counseling and technical services to 150,000 business owners annually.

In the fiscal year 2020 alone, the Small Business Administration revealed there were almost 70,000 jobs supported by the Women's Business Centers. These jobs represented communities from urban to rural to minority to chronically unserved.

To build on this success and expand the reach of these centers into communities like the one I represent in upstate New York, I joined with Congresswoman Davids to introduce the bipartisan Women's Business Centers Improvement Act. This legislation will increase funding available to this proven service while enacting commonsense taxpayer protections, and oversight provisions to safeguard these public resources and ensure the program efficiently serves the American people.

Finally, this bill will double the cap on grants offered by the program, allowing it to better support entrepreneurs while also reducing some of the administrative and compliance costs. These changes will ensure that the Women's Business Centers can meet the modern demands and needs of small businesses for years to come.

Thank you all for your support. I urge you all to join with me and Congresswoman Davids to support our nation's small businesswomen and entrepreneurs and vote yes on H.R. 6441.

I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentlewoman yields back.

Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 6441?

Ms. NEWMAN. I do.

Ms. DAVIDS. I would now like to recognize the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. Newman, for a statement.

Ms. NEWMAN. Well, thank you, Madam Chair. I move to strike the last word and speak in support of H.R. 6441, the Women's Business Centers bill.

Ms. DAVIDS. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NEWMAN. Thank you.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 6441. As a former small businessowner, I know that when our small businesses are strong, our country is strong.

Small business has been hit very hard by the pandemic and women entrepreneurs have particularly struggled as we all know and are still attempting to recover. This legislation comes at a very critical time. It will provide women entrepreneurs with the resources they need for their businesses to thrive. Furthermore, it allows women business centers to expand services in counseling, training, and technical assistance. Supporting this bill means supporting a more diverse small business landscape and investing in the next generation of women entrepreneurs.

Thank you, Madam, and I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentlewoman yields back.

Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized?

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair, and Ms. Tenney, for your leadership on this bill. Women's Business Centers (WBCs) support over 150,000 women entrepreneurs each year through training, mentoring, business development, and financing opportunities. Unfortunately, on May 4, 2021, the SBA's Office of Inspector General released a report that found SBA did not provide effective oversight over the WBC program. To that end, H.R. 6441 will bring increased oversight to the WBC program and long overdue modernizations. This legislation improves collaboration with SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership, requires the SBA to develop policies and procedures to reduce the possibility of awarding grants to a WBC that will not remain in compliance with the program, and requires an annual report to Congress to measure the effectiveness of the WBC program.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6441, and with that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize myself.

The Women's Business Centers program is emblematic of a good government program that was created to bridge opportunity gaps and promote equity. Since its inception, the WBC program has sought to reach more female entrepreneurs, particularly those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. To that end, many Women's Business Centers provide multilingual services, evening and weekend hours, and childcare for mothers in training sessions. In 2020 alone, the WBC program increased its outreach by 22 percent and counseled and trained more than 82,000 entrepreneurs. In addition, they helped start and sustain more than 30,000 small businesses. This is a solid record of success.

The bill we are considering today will enhance the WBC program and ensure women entrepreneurs all across the country have increased access to the vital counseling and training services. I have seen it in action in the Kansas City WBC and it is why I introduced and strongly supported this bipartisan legislation. It would raise the cap on grants from \$150,000 to \$300,000 and establish an accreditation program that would raise the standards of excellence for counseling and training, ensuring funds are being spent wisely to help those growing entrepreneurs.

Raising the grant caps will allow WBCs to expand their reach and resources. The Kansas City WBC currently serves the entire state of Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri. They served over 800 clients last year. How many more could they have reached with increased funding?

Last week, I held a roundtable with women small business owners in the Kansas 3rd District who have benefitted from the support and guidance of the Kansas City WBC. I heard firsthand from a diverse group of entrepreneurs spanning retail, IT, and consulting industries about how critical this program was to their success. They cited the flexible hours tailored to their needs and the supportive community as standpoint parts of their experience with the WBC. Expanding the reach and capacity of our WBCs will provide real-world benefits to female entrepreneurs across the country. I am proud to have introduced this important legislation alongside Ms. Tenney and I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 6441.

The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 6441, the Women's Business—

Ms. DAVIDS. Without objection, H.R. 6441 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 6441.

All in favor, say aye.

All opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 6441 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 6441 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 6441 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes.

Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional, supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

The next bill under consideration is H.R. 6450, the "SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022," introduced by Representative Young Kim and cosponsored by Representative Craig. The bill would reauthorize the SCORE program for 2 years, maintaining vital oversight mechanisms and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

I would now like to recognize the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. Young Kim, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

H.R. 6450

Mrs. YOUNG KIM. Thank you, Madam Chair Davids. I would also like to thank our Ranking Member Luetkemeyer for holding this very important markup and for working in a very bipartisan manner to consider vital pieces of legislation for our small businesses and entrepreneurs.

And thank you to my colleague, Representative Angie Craig, from Minnesota, for your partnership to introduce H.R. 6450, the “SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022.”

H.R. 6450 provides an authorization of \$13.5 million for the SCORE program for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The authorization will allow SCORE to expand counseling and training through online webinars, electronic mentoring platforms, and online toolkits to better serve small businesses and entrepreneurs. Additionally, the legislation would implement oversight mechanisms to better protect taxpayers’ dollars by requiring the SBA to conduct a financial review of the program every 2 years and improving protections for our whistleblowers.

The SCORE for Small Business Act would also expand services and promote diversity by requiring SCORE to develop and implement plans to better serve clients in rural areas and underserved communities. Since 1964, SCORE has served more than 11 million small business owners and entrepreneurs to establish, expand, or serve a small business. According to SCORE, since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, SCORE has seen a 30 percent increase in demand for their mentoring and educational services. Despite the challenges, 89 percent of SCORE clients stayed in business throughout 2020. This is an amazing accomplishment that we should look to preserve by reauthorizing the program. Ninety-six percent of workers employed in California’s 39th district are employed by small businesses. Thanks to the volunteers and mentors in the SCORE program, countless small businesses in my district have been able to weather the COVID-19 pandemic and keep their businesses running.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6450 and allow SCORE to keep providing valuable information and resources for small businesses across the country.

Thank you, and I yield back my time.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentlewoman yields back.

Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 6450?

I would now like to recognize the gentlewoman from Minnesota, Ms. Craig, for an opening statement.

Ms. CRAIG. Well, thank you so much, Chairwoman, for yielding and for convening this really strong bipartisan markup. Thank you, too, Congressman Young Kim for your leadership on this important bill.

I am so proud to cosponsor H.R. 6450, the SCORE for Small Business Act bipartisan legislation that will ensure the SCORE program can provide the support and assistance America’s small businesses deserve.

Small businesses are the economic engine that drive our country and I am so proud to represent the small businesses which make up 93 percent of employers in Minnesota’s 2nd Congressional District. The real-world experienced mentorship that the SCORE program provides has launched more than 45,000 businesses in 2020 alone with a return on investment of over \$67 for every \$1 in federal appropriations. Back home in my district, SCORE South Metro has been hard at work mentoring more than 100 Minnesotans who

need help opening a new business or learning how to get their idea off the ground.

SCORE can be an incredible resource for entrepreneurs all across the country but there is no doubt that there is room for improvement, especially when it comes to their service of rural and underserved communities as noted by a recent Inspector General report. Those improvements are exactly what our legislation seeks to provide. I know small businesses in my district and in rural communities across the country will benefit from the programmatic improvements this bill makes.

I thank the Chairwoman for advancing the bill today and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

With that, thank you. I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentlewoman yields back.

Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 6450?

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Luetkemeyer.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank Mrs. Young Kim and Ms. Craig for your fine work on this legislation. Congresswoman Kim, I know, is a great advocate for small businesses and their resource partners and I appreciate her work on this legislation to reauthorize the SCORE program and add new program safeguard data standards and reporting requirements.

SCORE is the largest network of free volunteer small business mentors and provides entrepreneurs with training in starting a business, succession planning and management, finance and marketing tools. I am confident that the provisions in this bill will support small businesses, improve the SBA's and Congress's oversight of the SCORE program, and ensure the integrity of the SCORE association is restored and maintained.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6450. With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize myself briefly.

SBA's SCORE program is the nation's largest network of volunteer business mentors. Since 1964, they have provided education and mentorship to over 11 million entrepreneurs. With 250 chapters and 10,000 volunteers nationwide, SCORE is well-positioned to provide virtual and face-to-face counseling to entrepreneurs throughout the country.

As we know the SCORE program has experienced some oversight challenges in the past. This bill reflects the immense work the new leadership at SCORE has done to resolve outstanding recommendations of the Office of Inspector General. This bill reflects the Committee's oversight efforts and ensures the steps SCORE has taken to restore integrity, accounting, and performance standards are carried into the future.

Today's bill is a culmination of bipartisan work to strengthen the SCORE program and ensure its efficient operation on behalf of America's small business community.

Thank you to both Mrs. Young Kim and Ms. Angie Craig for your bipartisan commitment to modernize and improve the SCORE program. I urge a yes vote.



If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 6450.

The clerk will report the title.

The CLERK. H.R. 6450, the SCORE for Small Business—

Ms. DAVIDS. Without objection, H.R. 6450 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 6450.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 6450 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 6450 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 6450 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes.

Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional, supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

We will now consider H.R. 4877, the “One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2021,” introduced by Congressman Delgado and cosponsored by Congresswoman Van Duyne.

H.R. 4877 would require the Office of the National Ombudsman to create and maintain a centralized website with hyperlinks to small business compliance guides and related points of contact for each federal agency. Doing so makes it easier for small businesses to comply with federal regulations.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. Delgado, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

H.R. 4877

Mr. DELGADO. Thank you, Chairwoman, and Ranking Member. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of my bipartisan bill, the One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act.

I introduced this legislation with my colleague, Congresswoman Van Duyne, who is also a Member of this Committee. I want to thank her for her partnership on this bill.

Since 2002, Congress has required federal agencies to publish small business compliance guides to assist small business owners in navigating onerous federal regulations. For the past 2 decades, these guides have been housed in various places across different agencies websites and it can get very, very difficult for small business owners to find and utilize them. Our legislation, the One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act would require the Small Business Administration to create a centralized website that houses all of these compliance guides, in turn, creating a one stop shop for small business owners. Our bill would also require the SBA website to list contact information for the appropriate agency staff to provide regulatory assistance to small businesses.

By making these guides and agency contact information more accessible, we can help small business owners, many of whom often

lack the resources to hire staff to focus on compliance issues. While the small business owners continue to navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their business, they should not also have to navigate a maze of government websites just to find the very resources meant to help them in the first place. Our bill helps to cut the red tape, lowers the cost of complying with regulations and makes life simpler for our small business owners. I know for the 27,000 small business owners, including self-employed in my district, it will make a big difference.

With that in mind, I want to thank the Chairwoman for including our bill in the markup today, and I urge the Committee to join me in supporting this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. Van Duyne, for an opening statement.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, who, by the way, until today, even though we shared an entire season in softball, I never knew that you were a fellow Cornellian either—so on this very small panel we have got three of us including Congressman Meuser.

Ms. DAVIDS. Go Big Red.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. It is a small world.

I want to thank you and Ranking Member Luetkemeyer for holding this markup and including this critical bill for reducing red tape for small business owners.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Delgado, for his leadership on this bill, the One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act.

One of the significant challenges for our smallest employers is dealing with an overzealous, regulatory state while they work to grow their businesses. Not only are some of these regulations complicated but the process of simply locating what regulations they need to be following can be overtime and very consuming. This bill would solve this problem by creating one centralized website for small business owners to access resources and compliance guides for certain federal regulations. Our entrepreneurs must spend more time on their business and less time sifting through federal regulations, especially during this challenging environment for all small businesses.

I am proud to partner with Representative Delgado on this bill and look forward to continued work together. I urge my colleagues to offer their support, and I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentlewoman yields back.

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you to my colleagues, Mr. Delgado from New York and Ms. Van Duyne from Texas for leading this effort.

Federal agencies are required to publish small business compliance guides for certain regulations. These guides are housed on different agency websites, making it difficult for small businesses to find and utilize. The bipartisan legislation we have before us today will create a one stop shop that will make it easier for small busi-

nesses to comply with federal regulations and to be brief, I support this commonsense bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize myself briefly.

In 1996, Congress established the Office of the National Ombudsman to serve as a powerful voice for small businesses within the federal government. This little-known office within SBA works to reduce unfair regulatory burdens on small businesses and assist them in complying with new regulations. This bill would require the Office of the National Ombudsman to create and maintain a public website that includes hyperlinks to compliance guides required by Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. These guides are valuable tools for small firms, helping them to come into compliance with the rules promulgated by federal agencies and could save them a significant amount of time and effort.

I want to thank Congressman Delgado and Congresswoman Van Duyne for their work on this bill and I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 4877.

The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 4877, the One Stop—

Ms. DAVIDS. Without objection, H.R. 4877 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 4877.

All in favor, say aye.

All opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4877 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 4877 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4877 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes.

Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional, supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

We will now take up the final bill on the agenda, H.R. 6454, the “Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2022,” introduced by Ranking Member Luetkemeyer and cosponsored by Congressman Carter. H.R. 6454 clarifies that SBA’s Office of Advocacy has the authority to examine international data, and represent small business interests in international discussions, particularly in trade negotiations.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Missouri, Ranking Member Luetkemeyer, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

H.R. 6454

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate your willingness to bring this up this morning, and I appreciate my cosponsor, Representative Carter.

SBA's Office of Advocacy is a critically important group that operates independently and solely on behalf of the nation's small businesses. While it produces research and statistics on the state of small business and our economy as a whole at the national, state, and congressional level, it also monitors federal agency compliance with regulatory matters. My bill, H.R. 6454, the "Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2022," expands the office's authority to be an independent voice for America's small businesses on international economic matters, including those dealing with trade which is so vitally important to our economy and to our small businesses today. Enhancing the Office of Advocacy's mission when it comes to trade matters will only serve to assist America's job creators.

I would like to thank the Chair again for bringing this bill up to vote and again thank my colleague, Mr. Carter, from Louisiana for joining me to ensure that the country's small businesses are represented and informed on all matters both domestically and internationally. It is my hope this Congress can finally advance this legislation as it has received bipartisan support in the past.

Madam Chair, with that, it is an important bill that I urge all my colleagues to support. I also yield back. Thank you.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Carter, for an opening statement.

Mr. CARTER. Madam Chair, thank you very much for this opportunity. Ranking Member Luetkemeyer, it is an honor to co-lead this bill with you. I am proud to advance this bipartisan bill that makes clear that the SBA Office of Advocacy has the authority to examine international economic data and represent small businesses'—interests in international discussions, particularly in trade negotiations.

Small businesses are the backbone of our American economy, and we need to lift them up at every possible opportunity. Louisiana's 2nd district is an international one. We have some of the most important ports in the country and our businesses connect with others across the world every day. Today's small businesses are more global than ever before, selling their products and buying goods from countries around the world. Opening up new markets overseas helps our businesses here at home. When the U.S. makes decisions on trade and other international economic issues, the concerns of small businesses must be considered. This will ensure that all small business owners have someone in the federal government fighting for the nation's small businesses at home and abroad. I am honored to be a part of advancing this legislation.

I would like to thank our Chair for leading this markup and certainly thank my dear friend and the Ranking Member, Mr. Luetkemeyer, for his incredible leadership on this issue. I urge a favorable passage. I yield back.

Ms. DAVIDS. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 6454?

I would now like to recognize myself briefly.

As the independent voice for small entities within the federal government, SBA's Office of Advocacy advances the views of our nation's 30 million small firms before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, federal courts and state policymakers. Since 2012, the Office of Advocacy has participated in international regulatory cooperation and international trade initiatives that impact small businesses. Their ability to conduct this outreach is vital to ensuring small businesses receive due consideration during international negotiations. That is why I support this bill to authorize the Office of Advocacy to represent American small business interests before foreign governments and international entities.

Thank you, Ranking Member Luetkemeyer and Representative Carter for your work on this legislation. I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 6454.

The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 6454, the Small Business—

Ms. DAVIDS. Without objection, H.R. 6454 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 6454.

All in favor, say aye.

All opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 6454 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 6454 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 6454 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes.

Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional, supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

I want to thank all the Members for their participation today. If there is no further business to come before the Committee, without objection, this meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:50 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

## APPENDIX

(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION**H. R. 6445**

To amend the Small Business Act to require an annual report on entrepreneurial development programs, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend the Small Business Act to require an annual report on entrepreneurial development programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Devel-  
5 opment Centers Improvement Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOP-**  
2 **MENT PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 10 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 639)  
4 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
5 section:

6 “(i) ANNUAL REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL DE-  
7 VELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—

8 “(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Administrator  
9 shall include in the comprehensive annual report re-  
10 quired under subsection (a) the following data:

11 “(A) A list of all entrepreneurial develop-  
12 ment activities undertaken during the fiscal  
13 year preceding the date of the report through a  
14 covered program, including—

15 “(i) a description and operating de-  
16 tails for each such covered program and  
17 the activities performed under each such  
18 covered program;

19 “(ii) operating circulars, manuals, and  
20 standard operating procedures for each  
21 such covered program;

22 “(iii) a description of the process used  
23 to make awards relating to the provision of  
24 entrepreneurial development activities  
25 under each such covered program;

1           “(iv) a list of all recipients of awards  
2           under each such covered program and the  
3           amount of each such award; and

4           “(v) a list of contractors, including  
5           the name and location of such contractor,  
6           of an award recipient.

7           “(B) The total amount of funding obli-  
8           gated for a covered program and the entrepre-  
9           neurial development activities conducted under  
10          each such covered program for the fiscal year  
11          preceding the date of the report.

12          “(C) The names and titles of the individ-  
13          uals responsible for carrying out a covered pro-  
14          gram.

15          “(D) For entrepreneurial development ac-  
16          tivities undertaken during the fiscal year pre-  
17          ceding the date of the report through the Small  
18          Business Development Center Program estab-  
19          lished under section 21 (in this section referred  
20          to as the ‘Program’)—

21                 “(i) the number of individuals coun-  
22                 seled or trained through the Program;

23                 “(ii) the total number of hours of  
24                 counseling and training services provided  
25                 through the Program;



1           “(iii) the demographics of participants  
2           in the Program, which shall include the  
3           gender, race, and age of each such partici-  
4           pant;

5           “(iv) the number of participants in  
6           the Program who are veterans;

7           “(v) the number of new businesses  
8           started by participants in the Program;

9           “(vi) to the extent practicable, the  
10          number of jobs supported, created, or re-  
11          tained with assistance from the Program;

12          “(vii) the amount of capital secured  
13          by participants in the Program, including  
14          through loans and equity investment;

15          “(viii) the number of participants in  
16          the Program receiving financial assistance,  
17          including the type and dollar amount,  
18          under a loan program of the Administra-  
19          tion;

20          “(ix) an estimate of gross receipts, in-  
21          cluding (to the extent practicable) a de-  
22          scription of any change in revenue, of  
23          small business concerns assisted through  
24          the Program;

1                   “(x) the number of referrals of indi-  
2                   viduals to other resources and programs of  
3                   the Administration;

4                   “(xi) the results of satisfaction sur-  
5                   veys of participants in the Program, in-  
6                   cluding a summary of any comments re-  
7                   ceived from such participants; and

8                   “(xii) any recommendations by the  
9                   Administrator to improve the delivery of  
10                  services by the Program.

11               “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12               “(A) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term ‘cov-  
13               ered program’ means a program authorized  
14               under section 7(j), 7(m), 8(a), 8(b)(1), 21, 22,  
15               29, 32, or 34 of this Act.

16               “(B) ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT  
17               ACTIVITY.—The term ‘entrepreneurial develop-  
18               ment activity’ means an activity related to the  
19               delivery of entrepreneurial development services,  
20               entrepreneurial education, or support for the  
21               development and maintenance of business train-  
22               ing services carried out through a covered pro-  
23               gram.”.

1 **SEC. 3. MARKETING OF SERVICES.**

2 Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648)  
3 is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(o) NO PROHIBITION OF MARKETING OF SERV-  
5 ICES.—An applicant receiving a grant under this section  
6 may use up to 10 percent of their budget to market and  
7 advertise the services of such applicant to individuals and  
8 small business concerns.”.

9 **SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION BY THE SMALL BUSINESS DE-**  
10 **VELOPMENT CENTER ASSOCIATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a)(3)(A) of the Small  
12 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “as provided in this section  
14 and” and inserting “as provided in this section,”;  
15 and

16 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the  
17 following: “, and (iv) governing data collection ac-  
18 tivities related to applicants receiving grants under  
19 this section”.

20 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—Sec-  
21 tion 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as  
22 amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by  
23 adding at the end the following:

24 “(p) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—The  
25 Administrator shall annually submit to the Committee on  
26 Small Business of the House of Representatives and the

1 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
2 the Senate a report on any data collection activities related  
3 to the Small Business Development Center Program.”.

4 (c) WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLEC-  
5 TION.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND STUDY.—The Admin-  
7 istrator of the Small Business Administration shall  
8 establish a group to be known as the “Data Collec-  
9 tion Working Group” consisting of entrepreneurial  
10 development grant recipients, the associations and  
11 organizations representing such recipients, and offi-  
12 cials from the Small Business Administration, to  
13 carry out a study to determine the best methods for  
14 conducting data collection activities and create or re-  
15 vise existing systems dedicated to data collection.

16 (2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the  
17 180-day period beginning on the date of the enact-  
18 ment of this Act, the Data Collection Working  
19 Group shall issue a report to the Committee on  
20 Small Business of the House of Representatives and  
21 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-  
22 neurship of the Senate containing the findings and  
23 determinations made in carrying out the study re-  
24 quired under paragraph (1), including—

1 (A) recommendations for revising existing  
2 data collection practices for the Small Business  
3 Development Center Program; and

4 (B) a proposed plan for the Administrator  
5 of the Small Business Administration to imple-  
6 ment such recommendations.

7 **SEC. 5. FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-**  
8 **SPONSORSHIPS.**

9 Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15  
10 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the  
11 following:

12 “(D) FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND  
13 COSPONSORSHIPS.—A small business development  
14 center that participates in a private partnership or  
15 cosponsorship, in which the Administrator or des-  
16 ignee of the Administrator also participates, may  
17 collect fees or other income related to the operation  
18 of such private partnership or cosponsorship.”.

19 **SEC. 6. EQUITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CEN-**  
20 **TERS.**

21 Subclause (I) of section 21(a)(4)(C)(v) of the Small  
22 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(v)(I)) is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made  
25 available in any fiscal year to carry out this sec-

1           tion, not more than \$600,000 may be used by  
2           the Administration to pay expenses enumerated  
3           in subparagraphs (B) through (D) of section  
4           20(a)(1).”.

5 **SEC. 7. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.**

6           Section 21(a)(7)(A) of the Small Business Act (15  
7 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

8           (1) by striking “or telephone number” and in-  
9           serting “, telephone number, or email address”; and

10          (2) by inserting “, or the nature or content of  
11          such assistance, to any State, local, or Federal agen-  
12          cy, or to any third party” after “receiving assistance  
13          under this section”.

14 **SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS TO SMALL**  
15 **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

16          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of the Small Business  
17 Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended by section 4, is further  
18 amended—

19          (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

20               (A) by striking “any women’s business  
21               center operating pursuant to section 29,”;

22               (B) by striking “or a women’s business  
23               center operating pursuant to section 29”; and

24               (C) by striking “and women’s business  
25               centers operating pursuant to section 29”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(q) LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS.—Except  
3 for not-for-profit institutions of higher education, and not-  
4 withstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator  
5 may not award a grant or contract to, or enter into a coop-  
6 erative agreement with, an entity under this section unless  
7 that entity—

8 “(1) received a grant or contract from, or en-  
9 tered into a cooperative agreement with, the Admin-  
10 istrator under this section before the date of the en-  
11 actment of this subsection; and

12 “(2) seeks to renew such a grant, contract, or  
13 cooperative agreement after such date.”.

14 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments  
15 made by this section may not be construed as prohibiting  
16 a women’s business center (as described under section 29  
17 of the Small Business Act) from receiving a subgrant from  
18 an entity receiving a grant under section 21 of the Small  
19 Business Act.

20 **SEC. 9. MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**

21 Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15  
22 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)), as amended by section 4, is further  
23 amended—

24 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
25 by striking “upon, with full participation of both

1 parties,” and inserting “upon with the full participa-  
2 tion of all parties (including the association author-  
3 ized in subparagraph (A)), and carried out”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and de-  
5 velop” and inserting “and negotiate the development  
6 of”; and

7 (3) in subparagraph (C)—

8 (A) by striking “Whereas”;

9 (B) by inserting “Program” after “Cen-  
10 ter”;

11 (C) by striking “National” and inserting  
12 “national”; and

13 (D) by moving such subparagraph 2 ems  
14 to the left.

15 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOR-**  
16 **MULA GRANTS RECEIVED BY STATES.**

17 Section 21(a)(4)(C) of the Small Business Act (15  
18 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)) is amended—

19 (1) in clause (vii), by striking “subparagraph”  
20 and all that follows through the period at the end  
21 and inserting “subparagraph \$175,000,000 for each  
22 of fiscal years 2022 through 2025.”; and

23 (2) in clause (viii), by striking “shall reserve  
24 not less than \$1,000,000” and inserting “shall re-  
25 serve not more than \$2,000,000”.



1 **SEC. 11. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO MATCHING FUNDS.**

2       Section 21(a)(4)(A) of the Small Business Act (15  
3 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the  
4 following new sentence: “Such matching funds shall be  
5 evidenced by good faith assertions from the applicant, and  
6 the expenditure of matching funds shall not be made a  
7 prerequisite of the reimbursement of Federal funds, not-  
8 withstanding the final reconciliation payment for the close-  
9 out of each award.”.

10 **SEC. 12. CONTRACT PREREQUISITES.**

11       Section 21(a)(5)(B) of the Small Business Act (15  
12 U.S.C. 648(a)(5)(B)) is amended by striking the second  
13 sentence and inserting the following: “Each contract shall  
14 be deemed approved under subparagraph (A) unless the  
15 Associate Administrator certifies in writing within 15  
16 business days after award of the contract that the contract  
17 will not provide assistance to small business concerns and  
18 that performance of the contract will hinder the small  
19 business development center in carrying out the terms of  
20 the grant received by the small business development cen-  
21 ter under this section.”.

22 **SEC. 13. DUTIES OF THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR**  
23 **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

24       Section 21(h)(2) of the Small Business Act (15  
25 U.S.C. 648(h)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the  
26 following new subparagraph:

1           “(C) MARKETING.—The Associate Admin-  
2           istrator for Small Business Development Cen-  
3           ters shall market and advertise the Small Busi-  
4           ness Development Center Program and partici-  
5           pants in such Program as a resource available  
6           to any Federal program providing assistance to  
7           small business concerns, including the FAST  
8           program established under section 34.”.

9   **SEC. 14. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

10          The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
11   complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
12   shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
13   titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
14   Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
15   by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
16   vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
17   vote on passage.

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6441

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's business center program, and for other purposes.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's business center program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Women's Business  
5 Centers Improvement Act of 2022".

### 6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER** 7 **PROGRAM.**

8 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656)  
9 is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 29. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
4 ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-  
5 ministrator of the Office of Women’s Business Own-  
6 ership established under subsection (k).

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
8 tity’ means—

9 “(A) an organization described in section  
10 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
11 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)  
12 of such Code;

13 “(B) a State, regional, or local economic  
14 development organization, if the organization  
15 certifies that grant funds received under this  
16 section will not be commingled with other  
17 funds;

18 “(C) an institution of higher education (as  
19 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
20 Act of 1965), unless such institution is cur-  
21 rently receiving a grant under section 21;

22 “(D) a development, credit, or finance cor-  
23 poration chartered by a State, if such corpora-  
24 tion certifies that grant funds received under  
25 this section will not be commingled with other  
26 funds; or

1           “(E) any combination of entities listed in  
2           subparagraphs (A) through (D).

3           “(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND  
4           CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term ‘small business  
5           concern owned and controlled by women’ has the  
6           meaning given under section 3(n).

7           “(4) RESOURCE PARTNERS.—The term ‘re-  
8           source partners’ means small business development  
9           centers, chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Ex-  
10          ecutives (established under section 8(b)(1)(B)), and  
11          Veteran Business Outreach Centers (described under  
12          section 32.

13          “(5) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER.—The term  
14          ‘women’s business center’ means the location at  
15          which counseling and training on the management,  
16          operations (including manufacturing, services, and  
17          retail), access to capital, international trade, govern-  
18          ment procurement opportunities, and any other mat-  
19          ter that is needed to start, maintain, or expand a  
20          small business concern owned and controlled by  
21          women.

22          “(6) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER ASSOCIA-  
23          TION.—The term ‘Women’s Business Center Asso-  
24          ciation’ means a membership organization formed by

1 women's business centers to pursue matters of com-  
2 mon concern.

3 “(b) AUTHORITY.—

4 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a  
5 Women's Business Center Program under which the  
6 Administrator may enter into a cooperative agree-  
7 ment with an eligible entity to provide a grant to  
8 such eligible entity to operate one or more women's  
9 business centers for the benefit of small business  
10 concerns owned and controlled by women.

11 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A women's business cen-  
12 ter established using funds made available under  
13 this section shall be designed to provide entrepre-  
14 neurial counseling and training that meets the needs  
15 of the small business concerns owned and controlled  
16 by women, especially such concerns owned and con-  
17 trolled by women who are both socially and economi-  
18 cally disadvantaged (as defined under section 8(a)),  
19 and shall provide—

20 “(A) financial assistance, including coun-  
21 seling and training on how to—

22 “(i) apply for and secure business  
23 credit and investment capital;

24 “(ii) prepare and present financial  
25 statements; and

1                   “(iii) manage cash flow and other fi-  
2                   nancial operations of a small business con-  
3                   cern;

4                   “(B) management assistance, including  
5                   counseling and training on how to plan, orga-  
6                   nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-  
7                   ity and function of a small business concern;  
8                   and

9                   “(C) marketing assistance, including coun-  
10                  seling and training on how to—

11                  “(i) identify and segment domestic  
12                  and international market opportunities;

13                  “(ii) prepare and execute marketing  
14                  plans;

15                  “(iii) develop pricing strategies;

16                  “(iv) locate contract opportunities;

17                  “(v) negotiate contracts; and

18                  “(vi) use various public relations and  
19                  advertising techniques.

20                  “(3) TYPES OF GRANTS.—

21                  “(A) INITIAL GRANT.—The amount of an  
22                  initial grant, which shall be for a 5-year term,  
23                  provided under this subsection to an eligible en-  
24                  tity shall be not more than \$300,000 annually  
25                  (as such amount is annually adjusted by the

1 Administrator to reflect the change in infla-  
2 tion).

3 “(B) CONTINUATION GRANTS.—The Ad-  
4 ministrator may award a continuation grant,  
5 which shall be for a 5-year term, of not more  
6 than \$300,000 annually (as such amount is an-  
7 nually adjusted by the Administrator to reflect  
8 the change in inflation) to an eligible entity  
9 that received an initial grant under subpara-  
10 graph (A). There shall be no limitation on the  
11 number of continuation grants an eligible entity  
12 may receive under this section.

13 “(c) APPLICATION.—

14 “(1) INITIAL GRANTS AND CONTINUATION  
15 GRANTS.—To receive an initial grant or continuation  
16 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-  
17 mit an application to the Administrator in such  
18 form, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
19 tion as the Administrator may require, including—

20 “(A) a certification that the eligible enti-  
21 ty—

22 “(i) has designated an executive direc-  
23 tor or program manager, who may be com-  
24 pensated using grant funds awarded under  
25 this section or other sources, to manage



1 each women's business center for which a  
2 grant under subsection (b) is sought; and

3 “(ii) meets accounting and reporting  
4 requirements established by the Director of  
5 the Office of Management and Budget;

6 “(B) information demonstrating the expe-  
7 rience and effectiveness of the eligible entity  
8 in—

9 “(i) providing entrepreneurial coun-  
10 seling and training described under sub-  
11 section (b)(2);

12 “(ii) providing training and services to  
13 a representative number of women who are  
14 both socially and economically disadvan-  
15 tagged; and

16 “(iii) working with resource partners,  
17 offices of the Administration, and other  
18 public and private entities engaging in en-  
19 trepreneurial and small business develop-  
20 ment; and

21 “(C) a 5-year plan that—

22 “(i) includes information relating to  
23 the assistance to be provided by each wom-  
24 en's business center in the area in which  
25 each such center is located;

1           “(ii) describes the ability of the eligi-  
2           ble entity to meet the needs of the market  
3           to be served by each women’s business cen-  
4           ter

5           “(iii) describes the ability of the eligi-  
6           ble entity to obtain the matching funds re-  
7           quired under subsection (e); and

8           “(iv) describes the ability of the eligi-  
9           ble entity to provide entrepreneurial coun-  
10          seling and training described under sub-  
11          section (b)(2), including to a representative  
12          number of women who are both socially  
13          and economically disadvantaged.

14       “(2) RECORD RETENTION.—

15           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
16           shall maintain a copy of each application sub-  
17           mitted under this subsection for not less than  
18           5 years.

19           “(B) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Ad-  
20           ministrator shall take steps to reduce, to the  
21           maximum extent practicable, the paperwork  
22           burden associated with carrying out subpara-  
23           graph (A).

24       “(d) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients of  
2       initial grants, the Administrator shall consider—

3           “(A) the experience of the applicant in pro-  
4       viding entrepreneurial counseling and training;

5           “(B) the amount of time needed for the  
6       applicant to commence operation of a women’s  
7       business center;

8           “(C) in consultation with a Women’s Busi-  
9       ness Center Association, the capacity of the ap-  
10      plicant to meet the accreditation standards es-  
11      tablished under subsection (k)(4) in a timely  
12      manner;

13          “(D) the ability of the applicant to sustain  
14      operations, including the applicant’s ability to  
15      obtain matching funds under subsection (e), for  
16      a 5-year period;

17          “(E) the proposed location of a women’s  
18      business center to be operated by the applicant  
19      and the location’s proximity to Veteran Busi-  
20      ness Outreach Centers and to recipients of  
21      grants under section 8(b)(1) or 21;

22          “(F) the population density of the area to  
23      be served by the women’s business center oper-  
24      ated by the applicant; and

1           “(G) the advice and counsel of a Women’s  
2           Business Center Association to determine areas  
3           with unmet needs and the likelihood that the  
4           recipient will become accredited.

5           “(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

6           “(A) RULEMAKING.—The Administrator  
7           shall issue regulations to specify the criteria for  
8           review and selection of applicants under this  
9           subsection.

10          “(B) MODIFICATIONS PROHIBITED AFTER  
11          ANNOUNCEMENT.—With respect to a public an-  
12          nouncement of any opportunity to be awarded  
13          a grant under this section made by the Admin-  
14          istrator pursuant to subsection (I)(1), the Ad-  
15          ministrator may not modify regulations issued  
16          pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect to  
17          such opportunity unless required to do so by an  
18          Act of Congress or an order of a Federal court.

19          “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
20          in this paragraph may be construed as prohib-  
21          iting the Administrator from modifying the reg-  
22          ulations issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
23          (after providing an opportunity for notice and  
24          comment) as such regulations apply to an op-  
25          portunity to be awarded a grant under this sec-

1           tion that the Administrator has not yet publicly  
2           announced pursuant to subsection (l)(1).

3       “(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (5),  
5       upon approval of an application submitted under  
6       subsection (c), the eligible entity shall agree to ob-  
7       tain contributions from non-Federal sources—

8           “(A) in the first and second year of the  
9       term of an initial grant, if applicable, 1 non-  
10      Federal dollar for every 2 Federal dollars; and

11          “(B) in each subsequent year of the term  
12      of an initial grant, if applicable, or for the term  
13      of a continuation grant, 1 non-Federal dollar  
14      for each Federal dollar.

15          “(2) FORM OF MATCHING FUNDS.—Not more  
16      than one-half of non-Federal matching funds de-  
17      scribed under paragraph (1) may be in the form of  
18      in-kind contributions that are budget line items only,  
19      including office equipment and office space.

20          “(3) SOLICITATION.—Notwithstanding any  
21      other provision of law, an eligible entity may—

22           “(A) solicit cash and in-kind contributions  
23      from private individuals and entities to be used  
24      to operate a women’s business center; and

1           “(B) use amounts made available by the  
2           Administrator under this section for the cost of  
3           such solicitation and management of the con-  
4           tributions received.

5           “(4) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Admin-  
6           istrator may disburse an amount not greater than  
7           25 percent of the total amount of a grant awarded  
8           to an eligible entity before such eligible entity ob-  
9           tains the matching funds described under paragraph  
10          (1).

11          “(5) FAILURE TO OBTAIN MATCHING FUNDS.—  
12          If an eligible entity fails to obtain the required  
13          matching funds described under paragraph (1), the  
14          eligible entity may not be eligible to receive advance  
15          disbursements pursuant to paragraph (4) during the  
16          remainder of the term, if applicable, of an initial  
17          grant awarded under this section. Before approving  
18          such eligible entity for a continuation grant under  
19          this section, the Administrator shall make a written  
20          determination, including the reasons for such deter-  
21          mination, of whether the Administrator believes that  
22          the eligible entity will be able to obtain the requisite  
23          matching funding under paragraph (1) for such con-  
24          tinuation grant.

25          “(6) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by an  
2           eligible entity and in accordance with this para-  
3           graph, the Administrator may waive, in whole  
4           or in part, the requirement to obtain matching  
5           funds under paragraph (1) for a grant awarded  
6           under this section for the eligible entity for a 1-  
7           year term of the grant.

8           “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining  
9           whether to issue a waiver under this paragraph,  
10          the Administrator shall consider—

11                  “(i) the economic conditions affecting  
12                  the eligible entity;

13                  “(ii) the demonstrated ability of the  
14                  eligible entity to raise non-Federal funds;  
15                  and

16                  “(iii) the performance of the eligible  
17                  entity under the initial grant.

18           “(C) LIMITATION.—The Administrator  
19           may not issue a waiver under this paragraph if  
20           the Administrator determines that granting the  
21           waiver would undermine the credibility of the  
22           Women’s Business Center Program.

23           “(7) EXCESS NON-FEDERAL DOLLARS.—The  
24           amount of non-Federal dollars obtained by an eligi-  
25           ble entity that is greater than the amount that is re-

1       quired to be obtained by the eligible entity under  
2       this subsection shall not be subject to the require-  
3       ments of part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regu-  
4       lations, or any successor thereto, if such amount of  
5       non-Federal dollars—

6               “(A) is not used as matching funds for  
7               purposes of implementing the Women’s Busi-  
8               ness Center Program; and

9               “(B) was not obtained by using funds  
10              granted under the Women’s Business Center  
11              Program.

12             “(8) CARRYOVER.—An eligible entity may use  
13             excess non-Federal dollars described in paragraph  
14             (7) to satisfy the matching funds requirement under  
15             paragraph (1) for the subsequent 1-year grant term,  
16             if applicable, except that such amounts shall be sub-  
17             ject to the requirements of part 200 of title 2, Code  
18             of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

19             “(f) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

20             “(1) SEPARATION OF FUNDS.—An eligible enti-  
21             ty shall—

22               “(A) operate a women’s business center  
23               under this section separately from other  
24               projects, if any, of the eligible entity; and



1           “(B) separately maintain and account for  
2           any grant funds received under this section.

3           “(2) EXAMINATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

4           “(A) REQUIRED SITE VISIT.—Before re-  
5           ceiving an initial grant under this section, each  
6           applicant shall have a site visit by an employee  
7           of the Administration, in order to ensure that  
8           the applicant has sufficient resources to provide  
9           the services for which the grant is being pro-  
10          vided.

11          “(B) ANNUAL REVIEW.—An employee of  
12          the Administration shall—

13                 “(i) conduct an annual programmatic  
14                 and financial examination of each eligible  
15                 entity, as described in subsection (g); and

16                 “(ii) provide the results of such exam-  
17                 ination to the eligible entity.

18          “(3) REMEDIATION OF PROBLEMS.—

19                 “(A) PLAN OF ACTION.—If an examination  
20                 of an eligible entity conducted under paragraph  
21                 (2)(B) identifies any problems, the eligible enti-  
22                 ty shall, within 45 calendar days of receiving a  
23                 copy of the results of such examination, provide  
24                 the Assistant Administrator with a plan of ac-

1           tion, including specific milestones, for cor-  
2           recting such problems.

3           “(B) PLAN OF ACTION REVIEW BY THE AS-  
4           SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Assistant Ad-  
5           ministrators shall review each plan of action sub-  
6           mitted under subparagraph (A) within 30 cal-  
7           endar days of receiving such plan. If the Assist-  
8           ant Administrator determines that such plan—

9           “(i) will bring the eligible entity into  
10          compliance with all the terms of a coopera-  
11          tive agreement described in subsection (b),  
12          the Assistant Administrator shall approve  
13          such plan; or

14          “(ii) is inadequate to remedy the  
15          problems identified in the annual examina-  
16          tion to which the plan of action relates, the  
17          Assistant Administrator shall set forth  
18          such reasons in writing and provide such  
19          determination to the eligible entity within  
20          15 calendar days of such determination.

21          “(C) AMENDMENT TO PLAN OF ACTION.—  
22          An eligible entity receiving a determination  
23          under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall have 30 cal-  
24          endar days from the receipt of the determina-  
25          tion to amend the plan of action to satisfy the

1 problems identified by the Assistant Adminis-  
2 trator and resubmit such plan to the Assistant  
3 Administrator.

4 “(D) AMENDED PLAN REVIEW BY THE AS-  
5 SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—Within 15 calendar  
6 days of the receipt of an amended plan of ac-  
7 tion under subparagraph (C), the Assistant Ad-  
8 ministrator shall either approve or reject such  
9 plan and provide such approval or rejection in  
10 writing to the eligible entity.

11 “(E) APPEAL OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-  
12 TRATOR DETERMINATION.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Assistant  
14 Administrator rejects an amended plan  
15 under subparagraph (D), the eligible entity  
16 shall have the opportunity to appeal such  
17 decision to the Administrator, who may  
18 delegate such appeal to an appropriate of-  
19 ficer of the Administration.

20 “(ii) OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLA-  
21 NATION.—Any appeal described under  
22 clause (i) shall provide an opportunity for  
23 the eligible entity to provide, in writing, an  
24 explanation of why the eligible entity’s  
25 amended plan remedies the problems iden-

1           tified in the annual examination conducted  
2           under paragraph (2)(B).

3           “(iii) NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.—

4           The Administrator shall provide to the eli-  
5           gible entity a determination of the appeal,  
6           in writing, not later than 15 calendar days  
7           after the eligible entity files an appeal  
8           under this subparagraph.

9           “(iv) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ACT.—

10          If the Administrator fails to act on an ap-  
11          peal made under this subparagraph within  
12          the 15-day period specified under clause  
13          (iii), the eligible entity’s amended plan of  
14          action submitted under subparagraph (C)  
15          shall be deemed to be approved.

16          “(4) TERMINATION OF GRANT.—

17          “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
18          shall terminate a grant to an eligible entity  
19          under this section if the eligible entity fails to  
20          comply with—

21                 “(i) a plan of action approved by the  
22                 Assistant Administrator under paragraph  
23                 (3)(B)(i); or

24                 “(ii) an amended plan of action ap-  
25                 proved by the Assistant Administrator

1 under paragraph (3)(D) or approved on  
2 appeal under paragraph (3)(E).

3 “(B) APPEAL OF TERMINATION.—An eligi-  
4 ble entity shall have the opportunity to chal-  
5 lenge the termination of a grant under subpara-  
6 graph (A) on the record and after an oppor-  
7 tunity for a hearing.

8 “(C) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—A deter-  
9 mination made pursuant to subparagraph (B)  
10 shall be considered final agency action for the  
11 purposes of chapter 7 of title 5, United States  
12 Code.

13 “(5) CONSULTATION WITH MAJORITY WOMEN’S  
14 BUSINESS CENTER ASSOCIATION.—If on the date of  
15 the enactment of this subsection, a majority of wom-  
16 en’s business centers that are operating pursuant to  
17 agreements with the Administration are members of  
18 an individual Women’s Business Center Association,  
19 the Administrator shall—

20 “(A) recognize the existence and activities  
21 of such Association; and

22 “(B) consult with the Association on, and  
23 negotiate with the Association in the develop-  
24 ment of documents with respect to—

1           “(i) announcing the annual scope of  
2           activities pursuant to this section;

3           “(ii) requesting proposals to deliver  
4           assistance as provided in this section; and

5           “(iii) governing the general operations  
6           and administration of women’s business  
7           centers, specifically including the develop-  
8           ment of regulations and a uniform nego-  
9           tiated cooperative agreement for use on an  
10          annual basis when entering into individual  
11          cooperative agreements with women’s busi-  
12          ness centers.

13          “(6) ENFORCEMENT.—

14               “(A) GRANTS.—The Assistant Adminis-  
15               trator shall develop policies and procedures to  
16               minimize the possibility of awarding a grant to  
17               an eligible entity that will operate a women’s  
18               business center that likely will not remain in  
19               compliance with program and financial require-  
20               ments.

21               “(B) INDIVIDUAL COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
22               MENTS.—The Assistant Administrator shall en-  
23               force the terms of any individual cooperative  
24               agreement described in paragraph (5)(B)(iii).

25          “(g) PROGRAM EXAMINATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall—

2 “(A) develop and implement an annual  
3 programmatic and financial examination of  
4 each eligible entity receiving a grant under this  
5 section, under which each such eligible entity  
6 shall provide to the Administration—

7 “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-  
8 tual expenditures for costs incurred during  
9 the preceding year; and

10 “(ii) documentation regarding the  
11 amount of matching assistance from non-  
12 Federal sources obtained and expended by  
13 the eligible entity during the preceding  
14 year in order to meet the requirements of  
15 subsection (e) and, with respect to any in-  
16 kind contributions described in subsection  
17 (c)(2) that were used to satisfy the re-  
18 quirements of subsection (e), verification of  
19 the existence and valuation of those con-  
20 tributions; and

21 “(B) analyze the results of each such ex-  
22 amination and, based on that analysis, make a  
23 determination regarding the programmatic and  
24 financial viability of each women’s business cen-  
25 ter operated by the eligible entity.

1           “(2) CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED FUNDING.—  
2       In determining whether to award a continuation  
3       grant to an eligible entity, the Administrator—

4           “(A) shall consider the results of the most  
5       recent examination of the eligible entity under  
6       paragraph (1);

7           “(B) shall determine if—

8           “(i) the eligible entity has failed to  
9       provide, or provided inadequate, informa-  
10      tion under paragraph (1)(A); or

11          “(ii) the eligible entity has failed to  
12      provide any information required to be pro-  
13      vided by a women’s business center for  
14      purposes of the management report under  
15      subsection (m)(1), or the information pro-  
16      vided by the center is inadequate; and

17          “(C) shall consider the accreditation status  
18      as described in subsection (k)(4).

19          “(3) ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Assistant  
20      Administrator shall work with the Women’s Busi-  
21      ness Center Association recognized under subsection  
22      (f)(5) (as applicable) to develop, implement, and  
23      maintain policies and procedures for conducting fi-  
24      nancial examinations under this subsection and to



1 maintain internal controls that ensure that such fi-  
2 nancial examinations are conducted properly

3 “(h) NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIRED.—The Ad-  
4 ministrator may only make a change to the standards by  
5 which an eligible entity obtains or maintains grants under  
6 this section, the standards for accreditation, or any other  
7 requirement for the operation of a women’s business cen-  
8 ter if the Administrator first provides notice and the op-  
9 portunity for public comment, as set forth in section  
10 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, without regard to  
11 any exceptions provided for under such section.

12 “(i) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

13 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity that  
14 receives a grant under this section may enter into a  
15 contract with a Federal department or agency to  
16 provide specific assistance to small business concerns  
17 owned and controlled by women and other under-  
18 served small business concerns, if performance of  
19 such a contract does not hinder the ability of the eli-  
20 gible entity to carry out the terms of a grant re-  
21 ceived under this section.

22 “(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The authority of the  
23 Administrator to enter into contracts shall be in ef-  
24 fect for each fiscal year only to the extent and in the  
25 amounts as are provided in advance in appropria-

1        tions Acts. After the Administrator has entered into  
2        a contract, either as a grant or a cooperative agree-  
3        ment, with any applicant under this section, the Ad-  
4        ministrator shall not suspend, terminate, or fail to  
5        renew or extend any such contract unless the Ad-  
6        ministrator provides the applicant with written noti-  
7        fication setting forth the reasons therefore and af-  
8        fords the applicant an opportunity for a hearing, ap-  
9        peal, or other administrative proceeding under chap-  
10      ter 5 of title 5, United States Code.

11      “(j) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

12            “(1) IN GENERAL.—A women’s business center  
13      may not disclose the name, address, or telephone  
14      number of any individual or small business concern  
15      receiving assistance under this section without the  
16      consent of such individual or small business concern,  
17      unless—

18            “(A) the Administrator orders such disclo-  
19      sure after the Administrator is ordered to make  
20      such a disclosure by a court in any civil or  
21      criminal enforcement action initiated by a Fed-  
22      eral or State agency; or

23            “(B) the Administrator considers such a  
24      disclosure to be necessary for the purpose of  
25      conducting a financial audit of a women’s busi-

1           ness center, except that such a disclosure shall  
2           be limited to the information necessary for such  
3           audit.

4           “(2) ADMINISTRATION USE OF INFORMATION.—

5           This subsection shall not—

6                 “(A) restrict Administration access to  
7                 women’s business center data; or

8                 “(B) prevent the Administration from  
9                 using information about individuals who use  
10                women’s business centers to conduct surveys of  
11                such individuals.

12           “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall  
13           issue regulations to establish standards for disclo-  
14           sures for purposes of a financial audit described  
15           under paragraph (1)(B).

16           “(k) OFFICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—

17                 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established  
18                 within the Administration an Office of Women’s  
19                 Business Ownership, which shall be responsible for  
20                 the administration of the Administration’s programs  
21                 for the development of women’s business enterprises  
22                 (as defined in section 408 of the Women’s Business  
23                 Ownership Act of 1988). The Office of Women’s  
24                 Business Ownership shall be administered by an As-

1     Assistant Administrator, who shall be appointed by the  
2     Administrator.

3             “(2) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OF-  
4     FICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—

5             “(A) QUALIFICATION.—The position of As-  
6     sistant Administrator shall be a Senior Execu-  
7     tive Service position under section 3132(a)(2)  
8     of title 5, United States Code. The Assistant  
9     Administrator shall serve as a noncareer ap-  
10    pointee (as defined in section 3132(a)(7) of  
11    that title).

12            “(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Adminis-  
13    trator shall administer the programs and serv-  
14    ices of the Office of Women’s Business Owner-  
15    ship and perform the following functions:

16            “(i) Recommend the annual adminis-  
17    trative and program budgets of the Office  
18    and eligible entities receiving a grant  
19    under the Women’s Business Center Pro-  
20    gram.

21            “(ii) Review the annual budgets sub-  
22    mitted by each eligible entity receiving a  
23    grant under the Women’s Business Center  
24    Program.

1                   “(iii) Collaborate with other Federal  
2                   departments and agencies, State and local  
3                   governments, not-for-profit organizations,  
4                   and for-profit organizations to maximize  
5                   utilization of taxpayer dollars and reduce  
6                   (or eliminate) any duplication among the  
7                   programs overseen by the Office of Women’s  
8                   Business Ownership and those of  
9                   other entities that provide similar services  
10                  to women entrepreneurs.

11                  “(iv) Maintain a clearinghouse to provide  
12                  for the dissemination and exchange of  
13                  information between women’s business centers.  
14                  

15                  “(v) Serve as the vice chairperson of  
16                  the Interagency Committee on Women’s  
17                  Business Enterprise and as the liaison for  
18                  the National Women’s Business Council.

19                  “(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of  
20                  Women’s Business Ownership shall be to assist  
21                  women entrepreneurs to start, grow, and compete in  
22                  global markets by providing quality support with access  
23                  to capital, access to markets, job creation,  
24                  growth, and counseling by—

1           “(A) fostering participation of women en-  
2           trepreneurs in the economy by overseeing a net-  
3           work of women’s business centers throughout  
4           States and territories;

5           “(B) creating public-private partnerships  
6           to support women entrepreneurs and conduct  
7           outreach and education to small business con-  
8           cerns owned and controlled by women; and

9           “(C) working with other programs of the  
10          Administrator to—

11           “(i) ensure women are well-rep-  
12           resented in those programs and being  
13           served by those programs; and

14           “(ii) identify gaps where participation  
15           by women in those programs could be in-  
16           creased.

17          “(4) ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.—

18           “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than  
19           270 days after the date of enactment of this  
20           paragraph, the Administrator shall publish  
21           standards for a program to accredit eligible en-  
22           tities that receive a grant under this section.

23           “(B) PUBLIC COMMENT; TRANSITION.—  
24           Before publishing the standards under subpara-  
25           graph (A), the Administrator—

1           “(i) shall provide a period of not less  
2           than 60 days for public comment on such  
3           standards; and

4           “(ii) may not terminate a grant under  
5           this section absent evidence of fraud or  
6           other criminal misconduct by the recipient.

7           “(C) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Ad-  
8           ministrator may provide financial support, by  
9           contract or otherwise, to a Women’s Business  
10          Center Association to provide assistance in es-  
11          tablishing the standards required under sub-  
12          paragraph (A) or for carrying out an accredita-  
13          tion program pursuant to such standards.

14          “(5) CONTINUATION GRANT CONSIDER-  
15          ATIONS.—

16          “(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining wheth-  
17          er to award a continuation grant under this sec-  
18          tion, the Administrator shall consider the re-  
19          sults of the annual programmatic and financial  
20          examination conducted under subsection (g)  
21          and the accreditation program.

22          “(B) ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.—  
23          After the end of the 2-year period beginning on  
24          the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
25          Administration may not award a continuation

1 grant under this section unless the applicable  
2 eligible entity has been approved under the ac-  
3 creditation program conducted pursuant to this  
4 subsection, except that the Assistant Adminis-  
5 trator for the Office of Women's Business Own-  
6 ership may waive such accreditation require-  
7 ment, in the discretion of the Assistant Admin-  
8 istrator, upon a showing that the eligible entity  
9 is making a good faith effort to obtain accredi-  
10 tation.

11 “(6) ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—Each women's  
12 business center shall participate in annual profes-  
13 sional development at an annual conference facili-  
14 tated by a Women's Business Center Association.

15 “(1) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE  
16 WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—The Adminis-  
17 trator shall provide the following:

18 “(1) A public announcement of any opportunity  
19 to be awarded grants under this section, to include  
20 the selection criteria under subsection (d) and any  
21 applicable regulations.

22 “(2) To any applicant for a grant under this  
23 section that failed to obtain such a grant, an oppor-  
24 tunity to debrief with the Administrator to review  
25 the reasons for the applicant's failure.



1           “(3) To an eligible entity that receives an initial  
2       grant under this section, if a site visit or review of  
3       the eligible entity is carried out by an officer or em-  
4       ployee of the Administration (other than the Inspec-  
5       tor General), a copy of the site visit report or eval-  
6       uation, as applicable, within 30 calendar days of the  
7       completion of such visit or evaluation.

8       “(m) ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall  
10      prepare and submit to the Committee on Small  
11      Business of the House of Representatives and the  
12      Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
13      of the Senate an annual report on the effectiveness  
14      of women’s business centers operated through a  
15      grant awarded under this section.

16          “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under  
17      paragraph (1) shall include—

18           “(A) information concerning, with respect  
19      to each women’s business center established  
20      pursuant to a grant awarded under this section,  
21      the most recent analysis of the annual pro-  
22      grammatic and financial examination of the ap-  
23      plicable eligible entity, as required under sub-  
24      section (g)(1)(B), and the subsequent deter-

1 mination made by the Administration under  
2 that subsection;

3 “(B) the number of persons counseled and  
4 trained through the Women’s Business Center  
5 Program;

6 “(C) the total number of hours of coun-  
7 seling and training through the Program;

8 “(D) the demographics of Program partici-  
9 pants to include gender, race, and age of each  
10 such participant;

11 “(E) the number of Program participants  
12 who are veterans;

13 “(F) the number of new businesses started  
14 by participants in the Program;

15 “(G) to the extent practicable, the number  
16 of jobs supported, created or retained with as-  
17 sistance from women’s business centers;

18 “(H) the amount of capital secured by par-  
19 ticipants in the Program, including through  
20 loans and equity investment;

21 “(I) the number of participants in the Pro-  
22 gram receiving financial assistance, including  
23 the type and dollar amount, under the loan pro-  
24 grams of the Administration;

1           “(J) an estimate of gross receipts, includ-  
2           ing to the extent practicable a description of  
3           any change in revenue of small business con-  
4           cerns assisted through the Program;

5           “(K) to the maximum extent practicable,  
6           increases or decreases in revenues for the as-  
7           sisted small business concerns;

8           “(L) the number of referrals made to other  
9           resources and programs of the Administration;

10          “(M) the results of satisfaction surveys of  
11          participants, including a summary of any com-  
12          ments received from such participants; and

13          “(N) any recommendations by the Admin-  
14          istrator to improve the delivery of services by  
15          women’s business centers.

16          “(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17          “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
18          appropriated to the Administration to carry out this  
19          section, to remain available until expended,  
20          \$31,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through  
21          2025.

22          “(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

23          “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
24          subparagraph (B), amounts made available  
25          under this subsection for fiscal year 2022, and

1 each fiscal year thereafter, may only be used for  
2 grant awards and may not be used for costs in-  
3 curred by the Administration in connection with  
4 the management and administration of the pro-  
5 gram under this section.

6 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Of the amount made  
7 available under this subsection for a fiscal year,  
8 the following amounts shall be available for  
9 costs incurred by the Administration in connec-  
10 tion with the management and administration  
11 of the program under this section:

12 “(i) For the first fiscal year beginning  
13 after the date of the enactment of this sub-  
14 paragraph, 2.65 percent.

15 “(ii) For the second fiscal year begin-  
16 ning after the date of the enactment of  
17 this subparagraph and each fiscal year  
18 thereafter through fiscal year 2025, 2.5  
19 percent.

20 “(3) EXPEDITED ACQUISITION.—Notwith-  
21 standing any other provision of law, the Adminis-  
22 trator may use such expedited acquisition methods  
23 as the Administrator determines to be appropriate to  
24 carry out this section, except that the Administrator

1 shall ensure that all small business sources are pro-  
2 vided a reasonable opportunity to submit proposals.

3 “(4) ACCREDITATION AND ANNUAL CON-  
4 FERENCE.—Not less than \$500,000 of the amounts  
5 appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for a fiscal  
6 year shall be available for purposes of carrying out  
7 subsection (k), of which no less than \$50,000 shall  
8 be available to support an annual conference de-  
9 scribed under subsection (k)(6).”.

10 **SEC. 3. EFFECT ON EXISTING GRANTS.**

11 (a) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A nonprofit organiza-  
12 tion receiving a grant under section 29(m) of the Small  
13 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day  
14 before the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue  
15 to receive the grant under the terms and conditions in ef-  
16 fect for the grant on the day before the date of enactment  
17 of this Act, except that the nonprofit organization may  
18 not apply for a continuation of the grant under section  
19 29(m)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
20 656(m)(5)), as in effect on the day before the date of en-  
21 actment of this Act.

22 (b) LENGTH OF CONTINUATION GRANT.—The Ad-  
23 ministrator of the Small Business Administration may  
24 award a grant under section 29 of the Small Business Act,  
25 as amended by this Act, to a nonprofit organization receiv-

1 ing a grant under section 29(m) of the Small Business  
2 Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day before  
3 the date of enactment of this Act, for the period—

4 (1) beginning on the day after the last day of  
5 the grant agreement under such section 29(m); and

6 (2) ending at the end of the third fiscal year be-  
7 ginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

9 Not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-  
10 ment of this Act, the Administrator of Small Business Ad-  
11 ministration shall issue such rules as are necessary to  
12 carry out section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
13 656), as amended by this Act, and ensure that a period  
14 of public comment for such rules is not less than 60 days.

[~116H4407\_\_RFS]

.....  
 (Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
 2D SESSION

# H. R. 6450

To amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program,  
 and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. KIM of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
 Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE  
 program, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
 2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “SCORE for Small  
 5       Business Act of 2022”.

6       **SEC. 2. SCORE PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND REQUIRE-**  
 7       **MENTS.**

8       Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637)  
 9       is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

2 (A) by striking “a Service Corps of Retired  
3 Executives (SCORE)” and inserting “the  
4 SCORE program described in subsection (c)”;  
5 and

6 (B) by striking “SCORE may” and insert-  
7 ing “the SCORE Association (as defined in  
8 subsection (c)) may”; and

9 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
10 following:

11 “(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13 “(A) SCORE ASSOCIATION.—The term  
14 ‘SCORE Association’ means the Service Corps  
15 of Retired Executives Association or any suc-  
16 cessor or other organization that enters into a  
17 cooperative agreement (as described under  
18 paragraph (2)) with the Administrator to oper-  
19 ate the SCORE program.

20 “(B) SCORE FOUNDATION.—The term  
21 ‘SCORE Foundation’ means an organization  
22 with a mission to support the SCORE Associa-  
23 tion and volunteers of the SCORE program.



1           “(C) SCORE PROGRAM.—The term  
2           ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program  
3           authorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

4           “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Admin-  
5           istrator shall enter into a cooperative agreement  
6           with the SCORE Association to carry out the  
7           SCORE program, which shall include the following  
8           requirements:

9           “(A) ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.—The Ad-  
10          ministrator shall—

11           “(i) every 2 years, conduct a financial  
12           examination of the SCORE Association to  
13           ensure that any costs paid for with Federal  
14           funds are allowable, allocable, and reason-  
15           able;

16           “(ii) review and approve contracts en-  
17           tered into by the SCORE Association to  
18           provide goods or services for the SCORE  
19           program of a value greater than an  
20           amount determined by the Administrator;

21           “(iii) maintain a system through  
22           which the SCORE Association provides  
23           documentation relating to such contracts;  
24           and

1           “(iv) within 30 days of the receipt of  
2           a quarterly report on the achievements of  
3           the SCORE program submitted by the  
4           SCORE Association, reconcile differences  
5           between such report and the performance  
6           results of the SCORE program reported in  
7           a management information system of the  
8           Office of Entrepreneurial Development.

9           “(B) SCORE ASSOCIATION DUTIES.—The  
10          SCORE Association shall—

11           “(i) manage nationwide chapters of  
12           the SCORE program;

13           “(ii) provide annual training to em-  
14           ployees of the SCORE Association on gen-  
15           erating and using program income from  
16           the SCORE program;

17           “(iii) submit documentation to the  
18           Administrator verifying such annual train-  
19           ing is completed;

20           “(iv) separate funds donated to the  
21           SCORE Association from program income  
22           and funds received pursuant to a coopera-  
23           tive agreement; and

24           “(v) maintain and enforce require-  
25           ments for volunteers participating in the

1 SCORE program, including requirements  
2 that each such volunteer shall—

3 “(I) based on the business expe-  
4 rience and knowledge of the volun-  
5 teer—

6 “(aa) provide personal coun-  
7 seling, mentoring, and coaching  
8 on the process of starting, ex-  
9 panding, managing, buying, and  
10 selling a business at no cost to  
11 individuals who own, or aspire to  
12 own, small business concerns;  
13 and

14 “(bb) facilitate free or low-  
15 cost education workshops for in-  
16 dividuals who own, or aspire to  
17 own, small business concerns;  
18 and

19 “(II) as appropriate, use tools,  
20 resources, and expertise of other orga-  
21 nizations to carry out the SCORE  
22 program.

23 “(C) JOINT DUTIES.—The Administrator,  
24 in consultation with the SCORE Association,

1 shall ensure that the SCORE program and each  
2 chapter of the SCORE program—

3 “(i) develop and implement plans and  
4 goals to effectively and efficiently provide  
5 services to individuals in rural areas, eco-  
6 nomically disadvantaged communities, or  
7 other traditionally underserved commu-  
8 nities, including plans for virtual, remote,  
9 and web-based initiatives, chapter expan-  
10 sion, partnerships, and the development of  
11 new skills by volunteers participating in  
12 the SCORE program; and

13 “(ii) reinforce an inclusive culture by  
14 recruiting diverse volunteers for the chap-  
15 ters of the SCORE program.

16 “(3) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In addition to pro-  
17 viding in-person services, the SCORE Association  
18 shall maintain and expand online counseling services  
19 including webinars, electronic mentoring platforms,  
20 and online toolkits to further support entrepreneurs.

21 “(4) ACCOUNTING.—The SCORE Association  
22 shall—

23 “(A) maintain a centralized accounting  
24 and financing system for each chapter of the  
25 SCORE program;

1           “(B) maintain a uniform policy and proce-  
2           dures to manage Federal funds received pursu-  
3           ant to a cooperative agreement described in  
4           paragraph (2); and

5           “(C) maintain an employee of the SCORE  
6           Association to serve as a compliance officer to  
7           ensure expenditures of the SCORE program are  
8           fully compliant with any law, regulation, or co-  
9           operative agreement relating to the SCORE  
10          program.

11          “(5) COMPENSATION.—

12           “(A) SALARIES.—The salary of an em-  
13           ployee of the SCORE Association may not ex-  
14           ceed the equivalent of the maximum rate of pay  
15           allowable for an individual in the career Senior  
16           Executive Service employed at the Administra-  
17           tion.

18           “(B) PERFORMANCE AWARDS.—The  
19           SCORE Association may spend up to 5 percent  
20           of the aggregate salaries of employees of the  
21           SCORE Association on individual performance  
22           awards to employees of the SCORE Associa-  
23           tion, to be disbursed before the last day of the  
24           fiscal year, if not later than 60 days before such  
25           disbursement the SCORE Association submits

1 to the Administrator a report on the number  
2 and amount of such awards to be disbursed.

3 “(C) SCORE FOUNDATION.—A member of  
4 the Board of Directors of the SCORE Associa-  
5 tion or an employee of the SCORE Association  
6 may not simultaneously serve on the Board of  
7 Directors of, or receive compensation from, the  
8 SCORE Foundation without written approval  
9 from the Administrator.

10 “(6) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION REQUIRE-  
11 MENTS.—The SCORE Association shall—

12 “(A) annually update all manuals or other  
13 documents applicable to employees and volun-  
14 teers of the SCORE Association or the SCORE  
15 program to include requirements relating to re-  
16 porting procedures and protectors for whistle-  
17 blowers; and

18 “(B) conduct an annual training for em-  
19 ployees and volunteers of the SCORE Associa-  
20 tion or the SCORE program on the require-  
21 ments described in paragraph (1) and encour-  
22 age the use of the hotline established by the Of-  
23 fice of the Inspector General of the Small Busi-  
24 ness Administration to submit whistleblower re-  
25 ports.

1           “(7) PUBLISHED MATERIALS.—The SCORE  
2       Association shall ensure all published materials in-  
3       clude written acknowledgment of Small Business Ad-  
4       ministration support of the SCORE program if such  
5       materials are paid for in whole or in part by Federal  
6       funds.

7           “(8) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

8           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Adminis-  
9       trator nor the SCORE Association may disclose  
10      the name, address, or telephone number of any  
11      individual or small business concern receiving  
12      assistance from the SCORE Association with-  
13      out the consent of such individual or small busi-  
14      ness concern, unless—

15           “(i) the Administrator is ordered to  
16      make such a disclosure by a court in any  
17      civil or criminal enforcement action initi-  
18      ated by a Federal or State agency; or

19           “(ii) the Administrator determines  
20      such a disclosure is necessary for the pur-  
21      pose of conducting a financial audit of the  
22      SCORE program, in which case disclosure  
23      shall be limited to the information nec-  
24      essary for the audit.

1           “(B) ADMINISTRATOR USE OF INFORMA-  
2           TION.—This paragraph shall not—

3           “(i) restrict the access of the Adminis-  
4           trator to SCORE program activity data; or

5           “(ii) prevent the Administrator from  
6           using SCORE program client information  
7           to conduct client surveys.

8           “(C) STANDARDS.—

9           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
10          shall, after the opportunity for notice and  
11          comment, establish standards for—

12          “(I) disclosures with respect to  
13          financial audits described under sub-  
14          paragraph (A)(ii); and

15          “(II) conducting client surveys,  
16          including standards for oversight of  
17          the surveys and for dissemination and  
18          use of client information.

19          “(ii) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTEC-  
20          TION.—The standards issued under this  
21          subparagraph shall, to the extent prac-  
22          ticable, provide for the maximum amount  
23          of privacy protection.

24          “(9) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180  
25          days after the date of the enactment of this sub-



1 section and annually thereafter, the Administrator  
2 shall submit to the Committee on Small Business  
3 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Com-  
4 mittee on Small Business of the House of Rep-  
5 resentatives a report on the performance and effec-  
6 tiveness of the SCORE program, which may be in-  
7 cluded as part of another report submitted to such  
8 Committees by the Administrator, and which shall  
9 include—

10 “(A) the total number and the number of  
11 unique clients counseled or trained under the  
12 SCORE program;

13 “(B) the number of hours of counseling  
14 provided under the SCORE program;

15 “(C) the number of local workshops pro-  
16 vided under the SCORE program;

17 “(D) the number of clients attending on-  
18 line and local workshops provided under the  
19 SCORE program;

20 “(E) to the extent practicable, the demo-  
21 graphics of SCORE program clients and volun-  
22 teers, which shall include the gender, race, and  
23 age of each such client or volunteer;

24 “(F) with respect to businesses assisted  
25 under the SCORE program, the cost to create

1 a job, the cost to create a business, and return  
2 on investment;

3 “(G) the number of referrals of SCORE  
4 program clients to other resources and pro-  
5 grams of the Administration;

6 “(H) the number of SCORE program eli-  
7 ents receiving financial assistance, including the  
8 type and dollar amount, under loan programs of  
9 the Administration;

10 “(I) the results of SCORE program client  
11 satisfactory surveys, including a summary of  
12 any comments received from such clients;

13 “(J) the number of new businesses started  
14 up by SCORE program clients;

15 “(K) the number of such new businesses  
16 realizing revenue growth;

17 “(L) to the extent practicable, the number  
18 of jobs created with assistance from the  
19 SCORE program;

20 “(M) the total cost of the SCORE pro-  
21 gram;

22 “(N) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
23 trator to improve the SCORE program; and

24 “(O) an explanation of how the SCORE  
25 program has been integrated with—

1                   “(i) small business development cen-  
2                   ters;  
3                   “(ii) women’s business centers (de-  
4                   scribed under section 29);  
5                   “(iii) Veteran Business Outreach Cen-  
6                   ters 20 (described under section 32);  
7                   “(iv) other offices of the Administra-  
8                   tion; and  
9                   “(v) other public and private entities  
10                  engaging in entrepreneurial and small  
11                  business development.”.

12 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**  
13 **SCORE PROGRAM.**

14       Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631  
15 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
16 subsection:

17       “(i) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be  
18 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the  
19 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums  
20 as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or  
21 enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that  
22 does not exceed \$13,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2022  
23 and 2023.”.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF  
3 THE SCORE PROGRAM.—

4 (1) STUDY.—The SCORE Association shall  
5 carry out a study on the future role of the SCORE  
6 program and develop a strategic plan for how the  
7 SCORE program will meet the needs of small busi-  
8 ness concerns during the 5-year period beginning on  
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, with specific  
10 objectives for the first, third, and fifth years of such  
11 5-year period.

12 (2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-  
13 month period beginning on the date of the enact-  
14 ment of this Act, the SCORE Association shall sub-  
15 mit to the Committee on Small Business of the  
16 House of Representatives and the Committee on  
17 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate  
18 a report containing—

19 (A) all findings and determination made in  
20 carrying out the study required under para-  
21 graph (1);

22 (B) the strategic plan developed under  
23 paragraph (1); and

24 (C) an explanation of how the SCORE As-  
25 sociation plans to achieve the strategic plan, as-

1           suming both stagnant and increased funding  
2           levels.

3       (b) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON LEASED SPACE.—

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of  
5 this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Admin-  
6 istration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business  
7 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
8 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a re-  
9 port containing an assessment of the cost of leased space  
10 that is donated to the SCORE Association.

11       (c) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—Not later than  
12 3 months after the last day of the first full fiscal year  
13 following the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
14 SCORE Association shall submit to the Committee on  
15 Small Business of the House of Representatives and the  
16 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
17 the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the online coun-  
18 seling services required under paragraph (3) of section  
19 8(e) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of  
20 this Act, including a description of—

21           (1) how the SCORE Association determines  
22       electronic mentoring and webinar needs, develops  
23       training for electronic mentoring, establishes  
24       webinar criteria curricula, and evaluates webinar  
25       and electronic mentoring results;

- 1           (2) the internal controls that are used and a  
2       summary of the topics covered by the webinars; and  
3           (3) performance metrics, including the number  
4       of small business concerns counseled by, the number  
5       of small business concerns created by, the number of  
6       jobs created and retained by, and the funding  
7       amounts directed towards such online counseling  
8       services.

9       **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

10       (a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act  
11       (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

12           (1) in section 7 (15 U.S.C. 636)—

13                (Λ) in subsection (b)(12)—

14                   (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-  
15               serting “PROGRAM” after “SCORE”; and

16                   (ii) in subparagraph (Λ), by striking  
17               “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and  
18               inserting “SCORE program”; and

19               (B) in subsection (m)(3)(Λ)(i)(VIII), by  
20               striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives”  
21               and inserting “SCORE program”; and

22           (2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

23                (Λ) in subsection (b)—

1 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking  
2 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and  
3 inserting “SCORE program”; and

4 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking  
5 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and  
6 inserting “SCORE program”; and

7 (B) in subsection (c)(12), by striking  
8 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-  
9 serting “SCORE program”.

10 (b) OTHER LAWS.—

11 (1) SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT  
12 OF 1997.—Section 707 of the Small Business Reau-  
13 thorization Act of 1997 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is  
14 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-  
15 ecutives (SCORE) program” and inserting “SCORE  
16 program (as defined in section 8(c)(1) of the Small  
17 Business Act)”.

18 (2) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND  
19 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Sec-  
20 tion 301 of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and  
21 Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C.  
22 657b note) is amended by striking “Service Core of  
23 Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE pro-  
24 gram”.

1           (3) MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL  
2 BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY  
3 ACT OF 2008.—Section 3(5) of the Military Reservist  
4 and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and  
5 Opportunity Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is  
6 amended by striking “the Service Corps of Retired  
7 Executives” and inserting “the SCORE program”.

8           (4) CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM  
9 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009.—Section 621 of the  
10 Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthoriza-  
11 tion Act of 2009 (15 U.S.C. 657p) is amended—

12                 (A) in subsection (a), by striking para-  
13 graph (4) and inserting the following:

14                 “(4) the term ‘SCORE program’ means the  
15 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1)(B)  
16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
17 637(b)(1)(B));”; and

18                 (B) in subsection (b)(4)(A)(iv), by striking  
19 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-  
20 serting “SCORE program”.

21           (5) ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION  
22 ACT.—Section 337(d)(2)(A) of the Energy Policy  
23 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6307(d)(2)(A)) is  
24 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-



1 executives (SCORE)” and inserting “SCORE pro-  
2 gram”.

3 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATION; ADMINISTRATOR.—The  
6 terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean,  
7 respectively, the Small Business Administration and  
8 the Administrator thereof.

9 (2) SCORE ASSOCIATION; SCORE PROGRAM.—  
10 The terms “SCORE Association” and “SCORE pro-  
11 gram” have the meaning given those terms, respec-  
12 tively, under section 8(e)(1) of the Small Business  
13 Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4877

To amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DELGADO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “One Stop Shop for  
5 Small Business Compliance Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR COMPLIANCE GUIDES.**

2       Section 30 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657)  
3 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
4 sections:

5       “(e) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.—Not later than 6  
6 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection,  
7 the Ombudsman shall maintain a publicly available  
8 website that includes—

9           “(1) hyperlinks to small entity compliance  
10 guides described under section 212(a)(1) of the  
11 Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness  
12 Act of 1996; and

13           “(2) with respect to each such small entity com-  
14 pliance guide, the contact information for an indi-  
15 vidual who can offer assistance to small entities with  
16 respect to the rules that are the subject of such  
17 guide.

18       “(f) REPORT ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—The Om-  
19 budsman shall include in the annual report required under  
20 subsection (b)(2)(C) an assessment of agency compliance  
21 with the requirements of section 212 of the Small Busi-  
22 ness Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 for the  
23 year covered by such annual report.”.

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6454

To clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LUETKEMEYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## A BILL

To clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Advo-  
5 cacy Improvements Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PRIMARY FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES**  
2 **OF THE OFFICE OF ADVOCACY OF THE SMALL**  
3 **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**

4 (a) PRIMARY FUNCTIONS.—Section 202 of Public  
5 Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634b) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and the  
7 international economy” after “economy”;

8 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking “complete”  
9 and inserting “compete”; and

10 (3) in paragraph (12), by striking “serviced-dis-  
11 abled” and inserting “service-disabled”.

12 (b) DUTIES.—Section 203(a) of Public Law 94–305  
13 (15 U.S.C. 634c) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the  
15 end;

16 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at  
17 the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(7) represent the views and interests of small  
20 businesses before foreign governments and inter-  
21 national entities for the purpose of contributing to  
22 regulatory and trade initiatives which may affect  
23 small businesses.”.