



## **New Procurement Bill Opens Up WOSB Program to Larger Contracts**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ann Sullivan

(202) 626-8528

[asullivan@madisonservicesgroup.com](mailto:asullivan@madisonservicesgroup.com)

Washington, DC (March 7, 2012) – Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) applauds the introduction of the Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act by Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). This legislation opens up the opportunity for women-owned businesses to win larger contracts and ensures that the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Federal Procurement Program is on equal footing with other small business procurement programs. More importantly, this bill allows successful women business owners to grow their companies, spurring economic recovery. WIPP strongly supports this legislation and urges the Congress to enact this legislation as soon as possible.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) took a major step forward last year by rolling out the WOSB program, however the program still contains barriers that prevent women owned business from fully developing. The Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act will remove the dollar limits on contract awards that the WOSB program currently limits by statute. These dollar limits create a ceiling and prohibit contracting officers from making significant awards. This bill frees up successful women-owned businesses to bid on larger contracts, enabling them to hire more employees and grow their businesses. Additionally, the legislation allows the federal government to award sole source contracts under the program, eliminating the burden of unnecessary regulatory steps. Not only do these changes encourage economic growth, they also bring the WOSB program in line with other socioeconomic programs such as 8(a), HUBZone, and the service disabled veterans program.

“For 11 very long years, we urged the Congress and the federal agencies to put the WOSB program into place. Now that it has been implemented, our work has turned to improving the program and making it a vehicle for business growth for women business owners,” said Barbara Kasoff, President of WIPP.

“Enacting this legislation will not only assist the federal government to meet its 5% goal for contracting with women-owned businesses but also allow successful women owned companies contracting with the federal government to continue to grow their business and compete for larger contracts,” added Kasoff.

*WIPP is a national nonpartisan public policy organization, advocating on behalf of nearly one-million women-owned businesses representing 60 business organizations. WIPP defines the business impact of government actions, provides timely economic information and analysis and identifies important trends and opportunities to its membership. Visit [www.wipp.org](http://www.wipp.org).*