April 2, 2019

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chair 
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Quigley,

As you begin appropriations for fiscal year 2020, I am writing to urge your support for critical business assistance programs.

Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) is a national nonpartisan public policy organization, advocating on behalf of women entrepreneurs. We would like to thank you for funding the majority of these important lending and training programs at or above our requests in previous years, and we respectfully request the following House funding levels, which reflect the investments necessary to spur further growth for women-owned businesses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Request</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Business Centers</td>
<td>$18.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microloan Lending</td>
<td>$42M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microloan Technical Assistance</td>
<td>$31M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Advocacy</td>
<td>$9.12M</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Women’s Business Council</td>
<td>$1.5M</td>
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SBA’s lending programs are vitally important to WIPP members, including a robust 7(a) program and a Community Advantage Program.

According to the Small Business Administration’s Office of Advocacy, small businesses have created two-thirds of new jobs since the end of the recession in 2009. There are 10 million woman business owners in the United States, accounting for nearly 40% of all businesses, and
generating $1.4 trillion in total receipts.\(^1\) These are impressive numbers. However, it is imperative that we continue to support our nation’s women entrepreneurs by ensuring access to capital, business training, and counseling resources.

These programs support women-owned businesses by providing the tools and capital they need to succeed. In FY18 for example, the Microloan Program supported nearly 5,500 microloans totaling $76.8 million to small businesses. Women-owned firms received 49% of the total number of microloans issued and 39% of the amount issued.\(^2\) Since 2007, the number of women-owned firms increased by 58%, compared to only a 12% increase among all businesses in the United States.\(^3\) These numbers show that expanded support for women entrepreneurs is imperative.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding these requests, please contact Jennifer Mangone at (202) 626-8528 or at jmangone@madisonservicesgroup.com.

Sincerely,

Candace Waterman
President and CEO
Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP)

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