

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CHRISTEL SLAUGHTER, PhD, CHAIR
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

TOM SULLIVAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

July 12, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
& Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
& Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Reauthorization of U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Programs

Dear Chairman Rubio and Ranking Member Cardin:

I am Christel Slaughter, Ph.D., CEO of SSA Consultants based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the Chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Council. The vast majority of Chamber member companies are small businesses and the Small Business Council works to ensure their views are considered as part of the Chamber's policy-making process.

I commend your bipartisan commitment for committee action on reauthorizing SBA programs. Your commitment to mark up a comprehensive program reauthorization bill is notable and deserves to be lauded, because such an undertaking has not been accomplished in 19 years. We share your opinion that modernizing SBA's programs would help small business. While your hearings over the past several months have paved the way toward legislative text, we know that considerable work lies ahead and we are committed to assisting the Committee in this important effort.

Regulatory relief that can be achieved through a strong Office of Advocacy, access to capital, strong partnerships with Small Business Development Centers and SCORE, and the ability of small businesses to compete in the federal procurement marketplace remain priorities for the Chamber and we are pleased that they are all included in the Committee's deliberations.

We look forward to working with you as you advance toward mark up and consideration by the full Senate. Please do not hesitate to contact Tom Sullivan, who heads our Small Business Council, if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Christel Slaughter

cc: Members of the Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship