

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1774

To amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers, the women’s business center program, the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. CHABOT) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers, the women’s business center program, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Developing the Next Generation of Small Businesses Act
6 of 2017”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
8 this Act are as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
IMPROVEMENTS

- Sec. 101. Short title.
 Sec. 102. Use of authorized entrepreneurial development programs.
 Sec. 103. Marketing of services.
 Sec. 104. Data collection.
 Sec. 105. Fees from private partnerships and cosponsorships.
 Sec. 106. Equity for small business development centers.
 Sec. 107. Confidentiality requirements.
 Sec. 108. Limitation on award of grants to small business development centers.

TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS PROGRAM
IMPROVEMENTS

- Sec. 201. Short title.
 Sec. 202. Office of Women’s Business Ownership.
 Sec. 203. Women’s Business Center Program.
 Sec. 204. Matching requirements under Women’s Business Center Program.

TITLE III—SCORE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

- Sec. 301. Short title.
 Sec. 302. SCORE reauthorization.
 Sec. 303. SCORE program.
 Sec. 304. Online component.
 Sec. 305. Study and report on the future role of the score program.
 Sec. 306. Technical and conforming amendments.

1 **TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS DE-**
 2 **VELOPMENT CENTERS IM-**
 3 **PROVEMENTS**

4 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Small Business Devel-
 6 opment Centers Improvement Act of 2017”.

7 **SEC. 102. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVEL-**
 8 **OPMENT PROGRAMS.**

9 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
 10 amended—

11 (1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48;
 12 and

1 (2) by inserting after section 46 the following
2 new section:

3 **“SEC. 47. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOP-**
4 **OPMENT PROGRAMS.**

5 “(a) EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, the Administrator shall only use
8 the programs authorized in sections 7(j), 7(m), 8(a),
9 8(b)(1), 21, 22, 29, and 32 of this Act, and sections
10 358 and 389 of the Small Business Investment Act
11 to deliver entrepreneurial development services, en-
12 trepreneurial education, support for the development
13 and maintenance of clusters, or business training.

14 “(2) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply
15 to services provided to assist small business concerns
16 owned by an Indian tribe (as such term is defined
17 in section 8(a)(13)).

18 “(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning on the first De-
19 cember 1 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
20 the Administrator shall annually report to the Committee
21 on Small Business of the House of Representatives and
22 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
23 of the Senate on all entrepreneurial development activities
24 undertaken in the current fiscal year. This report shall
25 include—

1 “(1) a description and operating details for
2 each program and activity;

3 “(2) operating circulars, manuals, and standard
4 operating procedures for each program and activity;

5 “(3) a description of the process used to award
6 grants under each program and activity;

7 “(4) a list of all awardees, contractors, and ven-
8 dors (including organization name and location) and
9 the amount of awards for the current fiscal year for
10 each program and activity;

11 “(5) the amount of funding obligated for the
12 current fiscal year for each program and activity;

13 and

14 “(6) the names and titles for those individuals
15 responsible for each program and activity.”.

16 **SEC. 103. MARKETING OF SERVICES.**

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

19 “(o) NO PROHIBITION OF MARKETING OF SERV-
20 ICES.—The Administrator shall not prohibit applicants re-
21 ceiving grants under this section from marketing and ad-
22 vertising their services to individuals and small business
23 concerns.”.

1 **SEC. 104. DATA COLLECTION.**

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

4 (1) by striking “as provided in this section
5 and” and inserting “as provided in this section,”;
6 and

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

11 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—Sec-
12 tion 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as
13 amended by section 103 of this Act, is further amended
14 by adding at the end the following:

15 “(p) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—The
16 Administrator shall report annually to the Committee on
17 Small Business of the House of Representatives and the
18 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
19 the Senate on any data collection activities related to the
20 Small Business Development Center program.”.

21 (c) WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLEC-
22 TION.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND STUDY.—The Admin-
24 istrator of the Small Business Administration shall
25 establish a Data Collection Working Group con-
26 sisting of members from entrepreneurial develop-

1 ment grant recipients associations and organizations
2 and Administration officials, to carry out a study to
3 determine the best way to capture data collection
4 and create or revise existing systems dedicated to
5 data collection.

6 (2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the
7 180-day period beginning on the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Data Collection Working
9 Group shall issue a report to the Committee on
10 Small Business of the House of Representatives and
11 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
12 neurship of the Senate containing the findings and
13 determinations made in carrying out the study re-
14 quired under paragraph (1), including—

15 (A) recommendations for revising existing
16 data collection practices; and

17 (B) a proposed plan for the Small Busi-
18 ness Administration to implement such rec-
19 ommendations.

20 **SEC. 105. FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-**
21 **SPONSORSHIPS.**

22 Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15
23 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(C)), as amended by section 104, is fur-
24 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 108. LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS TO SMALL**
2 **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

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

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “any wom-
7 en’s business center operating pursuant to section
8 29,”;

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

10 “(q) LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS.—Except
11 for not-for-profit institutions of higher education, and not-
12 withstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator
13 may not award grants (including contracts and coopera-
14 tive agreements) under this section to any entity other
15 than those that received grants (including contracts and
16 cooperative agreements) under this section prior to the
17 date of the enactment of this subsection, and that seek
18 to renew such grants (including contracts and cooperative
19 agreements) after such date.”.

20 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments
21 made by this section may not be construed as prohibiting
22 a women’s business center from receiving a subgrant from
23 an entity receiving a grant under section 21 of the Small
24 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648).

1 **TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS**
2 **CENTERS PROGRAM IM-**
3 **PROVEMENTS**

4 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Women’s Business
6 Centers Improvements Act of 2017”.

7 **SEC. 202. OFFICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.**

8 Section 29(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
9 656(g)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs
11 (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

12 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibil-
13 ities of the Assistant Administrator shall be to
14 administer the programs and services of the Of-
15 fice of Women’s Business Ownership.

16 “(C) DUTIES.—The Assistant Adminis-
17 trator shall perform the following functions
18 with respect to the Office of Women’s Business
19 Ownership:

20 “(i) Recommend the annual adminis-
21 trative and program budgets of the Office
22 and eligible entities receiving a grant
23 under the Women’s Business Center Pro-
24 gram.

1 “(ii) Review the annual budgets sub-
2 mitted by each eligible entity receiving a
3 grant under the Women’s Business Center
4 Program.

5 “(iii) Select applicants to receive
6 grants to operate a women’s business cen-
7 ter after reviewing information required by
8 this section, including the budget of each
9 applicant.

10 “(iv) Collaborate with other Federal
11 departments and agencies, State and local
12 governments, not-for-profit organizations,
13 and for-profit enterprises to maximize uti-
14 lization of taxpayer dollars and reduce (or
15 eliminate) any duplication among the pro-
16 grams overseen by the Office of Women’s
17 Business Ownership and those of other en-
18 tities that provide similar services to
19 women entrepreneurs.

20 “(v) Maintain a clearinghouse to pro-
21 vide for the dissemination and exchange of
22 information between women’s business cen-
23 ters.

24 “(vi) Serve as the vice chairperson of
25 the Interagency Committee on Women’s

1 Business Enterprise and as the liaison for
2 the National Women’s Business Council.”;
3 and

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

5 “(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of
6 Women’s Business Ownership shall be to assist
7 women entrepreneurs to start, grow, and compete in
8 global markets by providing quality support with ac-
9 cess to capital, access to markets, job creation,
10 growth, and counseling by—

11 “(A) fostering participation of women en-
12 trepreneurs in the economy by overseeing a net-
13 work of women’s business centers throughout
14 States and territories;

15 “(B) creating public-private partnerships
16 to support women entrepreneurs and conduct
17 outreach and education to startup and existing
18 small business concerns owned and controlled
19 by women; and

20 “(C) working with other programs over-
21 seen by the Administrator to ensure women are
22 well-represented and being served and to iden-
23 tify gaps where participation by women could
24 be increased.

25 “(4) ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.—

1 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than
2 270 days after the date of enactment of this
3 paragraph, the Administrator shall establish
4 standards for an accreditation program for ac-
5 crediting eligible entities receiving a grant
6 under this section.

7 “(B) TRANSITION PROVISION.—Before the
8 date on which standards are established under
9 subparagraph (A), the Administrator may not
10 terminate a grant under this section absent evi-
11 dence of fraud or other criminal misconduct by
12 the recipient.

13 “(C) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Ad-
14 ministrator may provide financial assistance, by
15 contract or otherwise, to a relevant national
16 women’s business center representative associa-
17 tion to provide assistance in establishing the
18 standards required under subparagraph (A) or
19 for carrying out an accreditation program pur-
20 suant to such standards.”.

21 **SEC. 203. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 29(a) of the Small Busi-
23 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 656(a)) is amended—

24 (1) by striking paragraph (4);

1 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
2 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(2) the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

6 “(A) an organization described in section
7 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
8 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)
9 of such Code;

10 “(B) a State, regional, or local economic
11 development organization, so long as the orga-
12 nization certifies that grant funds received
13 under this section will not be commingled with
14 other funds;

15 “(C) an institution of higher education,
16 unless such institution is currently receiving a
17 grant under section 21;

18 “(D) a development, credit, or finance cor-
19 poration chartered by a State, so long as the
20 corporation certifies that grant funds received
21 under this section will not be commingled with
22 other funds; or

23 “(E) any combination of entities listed in
24 subparagraphs (A) through (D);”;

25 (4) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(5) the term ‘women’s business center’ means
2 the location at which counseling and training on the
3 management, operations (including manufacturing,
4 services, and retail), access to capital, international
5 trade, Government procurement opportunities, and
6 any other matter is needed to start, maintain, or ex-
7 pand a small business concern owned and controlled
8 by women.”.

9 (b) AUTHORITY.—Section 29(b) of the Small Busi-
10 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and
12 (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively,
13 and adjusting the margins accordingly;

14 (2) by striking “The Administration” and all
15 that follows through “5-year projects” and inserting
16 the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a
18 Women’s Business Center Program under which the
19 Administrator may provide a grant to any eligible
20 entity to operate one or more women’s business cen-
21 ters”;

22 (3) by striking “The projects shall” and insert-
23 ing the following:

24 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The women’s business
25 centers shall be designed to provide counseling and

1 training that meets the needs of women, especially
2 socially or economically disadvantaged women, and
3 shall”; and

4 (4) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(3) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a
7 grant provided under this subsection to an eligi-
8 ble entity per project year shall be not more
9 than \$185,000 (as such amount is annually ad-
10 justed by the Administrator to reflect the
11 change in inflation).

12 “(B) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
14 subparagraph (A), with respect to an eligi-
15 ble entity that has received \$185,000 in
16 grants under this subsection in a project
17 year, the Administrator may award an ad-
18 ditional grant under this subsection of up
19 to \$65,000 during such project year if the
20 Administrator determines that the eligible
21 entity—

22 “(I) agrees to obtain, after its
23 application has been approved and no-
24 tice of award has been issued, cash
25 contributions from non-Federal

1 sources of 1 non-Federal dollar for
2 each Federal dollar;

3 “(II) is in good standing with the
4 Women’s Business Center Program;
5 and

6 “(III) has met performance goals
7 for the previous project year, if appli-
8 cable.

9 “(ii) LIMITATIONS.—The Adminis-
10 trator may only award additional grants
11 under clause (i)—

12 “(I) during the 3rd and 4th
13 quarters of the fiscal year; and

14 “(II) from unobligated amounts
15 made available to the Administrator
16 to carry out this section.

17 “(4) NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIRED.—The
18 Administrator may only make a change to the stand-
19 ards by which an eligible entity obtains or maintains
20 grants under this section, the standards for accredi-
21 tation, or any other requirement for the operation of
22 a women’s business center if the Administrator first
23 provides notice and the opportunity for public com-
24 ment, as set forth in section 553(b) of title 5,

1 United States Code, without regard to any excep-
2 tions provided for under such section.”.

3 (c) CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION.—Section 29(c)
4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)—

7 (A) by striking “the recipient organiza-
8 tion” and inserting “an eligible entity”; and

9 (B) by striking “financial assistance” and
10 inserting “a grant”;

11 (2) in paragraph (3)—

12 (A) by striking “financial assistance au-
13 thorized pursuant to this section may be made
14 by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
15 and” and inserting “grants authorized pursuant
16 to this section”; and

17 (B) in the second sentence, by striking “a
18 recipient organization” and inserting “an eligi-
19 ble entity”;

20 (3) in paragraph (4)—

21 (A) by striking “recipient of assistance”
22 and inserting “eligible entity”;

23 (B) by striking “during any project, it
24 shall not be eligible thereafter” and inserting
25 “during any project for 2 consecutive years, the

1 eligible entity shall not be eligible at any time
2 after that 2-year period”;

3 (C) by striking “such organization” and
4 inserting “the eligible entity”; and

5 (D) by striking “the recipient” and insert-
6 ing “the eligible entity”; and

7 (4) by adding at end the following:

8 “(5) SEPARATION OF PROJECT AND FUNDS.—
9 An eligible entity shall—

10 “(A) carry out a project under this section
11 separately from other projects, if any, of the eli-
12 gible entity; and

13 “(B) separately maintain and account for
14 any grants under this section.

15 “(6) EXAMINATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

16 “(A) REQUIRED SITE VISIT.—Each appli-
17 cant, prior to receiving a grant under this sec-
18 tion, shall have a site visit by an employee of
19 the Administration, in order to ensure that the
20 applicant has sufficient resources to provide the
21 services for which the grant is being provided.

22 “(B) ANNUAL REVIEW.—An employee of
23 the Administration shall—

24 “(i) conduct an annual review of the
25 compliance of each eligible entity receiving

1 a grant under this section with the grant
2 agreement, including a financial examina-
3 tion; and

4 “(ii) provide such review to the eligi-
5 ble entity as required under subsection (l).

6 “(7) REMEDIATION OF PROBLEMS.—

7 “(A) PLAN OF ACTION.—If a review of an
8 eligible entity under paragraph (6)(B) identifies
9 any problems, the eligible entity shall, within 45
10 calendar days of receiving such review, provide
11 the Assistant Administrator with a plan of ac-
12 tion, including specific milestones, for cor-
13 recting such problems.

14 “(B) PLAN OF ACTION REVIEW BY THE AS-
15 SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Assistant Ad-
16 ministrator shall review each plan of action sub-
17 mitted under subparagraph (A) within 30 cal-
18 endar days of receiving such plan and—

19 “(i) if the Assistant Administrator de-
20 termines that such plan will bring the eligi-
21 ble entity into compliance with all the
22 terms of the grant agreement, approve
23 such plan;

24 “(ii) if the Assistant Administrator
25 determines that such plan is inadequate to

1 remedy the problems identified in the an-
2 nual review to which the plan of action re-
3 lates, the Assistant Administrator shall set
4 forth such reasons in writing and provide
5 such determination to the eligible entity
6 within 15 calendar days of such determina-
7 tion.

8 “(C) AMENDMENT TO PLAN OF ACTION.—

9 An eligible entity receiving a determination
10 under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall have 30 cal-
11 endar days from the receipt of the determina-
12 tion to amend the plan of action to satisfy the
13 problems identified by the Assistant Adminis-
14 trator and resubmit such plan to the Assistant
15 Administrator.

16 “(D) AMENDED PLAN REVIEW BY THE AS-

17 SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—Within 15 calendar
18 days of the receipt of an amended plan of ac-
19 tion under subparagraph (C), the Assistant Ad-
20 ministrator shall either approve or reject such
21 plan and provide such approval or rejection in
22 writing to the eligible entity.

23 “(E) APPEAL OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-

24 TRATOR DETERMINATION.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Assistant
2 Administrator rejects an amended plan
3 under subparagraph (D), the eligible entity
4 shall have the opportunity to appeal such
5 decision to the Administrator, who may
6 delegate such appeal to an appropriate of-
7 ficer of the Administration.

8 “(ii) OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLA-
9 NATION.—Any appeal described under
10 clause (i) shall provide an opportunity for
11 the eligible entity to provide, in writing, an
12 explanation of why the eligible entity’s plan
13 remedies the problems identified in the an-
14 nual review.

15 “(iii) NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.—
16 The determination of the appeal shall be
17 provided to the eligible entity, in writing,
18 within 15 calendar days from the eligible
19 entity’s filing of the appeal.

20 “(iv) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ACT.—
21 If the Administrator fails to act on an ap-
22 peal made under this subparagraph within
23 the 15 calendar day period specified under
24 clause (iii), the eligible entity’s amended

1 plan of action submitted under subpara-
2 graph (C) shall be deemed to be approved.

3 “(8) TERMINATION OF GRANT.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
5 shall require that, if an eligible entity fails to
6 comply with a plan of action approved by the
7 Assistant Administrator under paragraph
8 (7)(B)(i) or an amended plan of action ap-
9 proved by the Assistant Administrator under
10 paragraph (7)(D) or approved on appeal under
11 paragraph (7)(E), the Assistant Administrator
12 shall terminate the grant provided to the eligi-
13 ble entity under this section.

14 “(B) APPEAL OF TERMINATION.—An eligi-
15 ble entity that has a grant terminated under
16 subparagraph (A) shall have the opportunity to
17 challenge the termination on the record and
18 after an opportunity for a hearing.

19 “(C) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—The deter-
20 mination made pursuant to subparagraph (B)
21 shall be considered final agency action for the
22 purposes of chapter 7, title 5, United States
23 Code.”.

24 (d) SUBMISSION OF 5-YEAR PLAN.—Section 29(e) of
25 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(e)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “applicant organization” and in-
2 serting “eligible entity”;

3 (2) by striking “a recipient organization” and
4 inserting “an eligible entity”;

5 (3) by striking “financial assistance” and in-
6 serting “grants”; and

7 (4) by striking “site”.

8 (e) APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR INITIAL
9 GRANT.—Subsection (f) of section 29 of the Small Busi-
10 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(f) APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR INITIAL
12 GRANT.—

13 “(1) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desir-
14 ing a grant under subsection (b) shall submit to the
15 Administrator an application that contains—

16 “(A) a certification that the eligible enti-
17 ty—

18 “(i) has designated an executive direc-
19 tor or program manager, who may be com-
20 pensated using grant funds under sub-
21 section (b) or other sources, to manage the
22 women’s business center for which a grant
23 under subsection (b) is sought; and

24 “(ii) meets the accounting and report-
25 ing requirements established by the Direc-

1 tor of the Office of Management and
2 Budget;

3 “(B) information demonstrating that the
4 eligible entity has the ability and resources to
5 meet the needs of the market to be served by
6 the women’s business center, including the abil-
7 ity to obtain the non-Federal contribution re-
8 quired under subsection (c);

9 “(C) information relating to the assistance
10 to be provided by the women’s business center
11 in the area in which the women’s business cen-
12 ter is located;

13 “(D) information demonstrating the expe-
14 rience and effectiveness of the eligible entity
15 in—

16 “(i) conducting the services described
17 under subsection (a)(5);

18 “(ii) providing training and services to
19 a representative number of women who are
20 socially or economically disadvantaged; and

21 “(iii) working with resource partners
22 of the Administration and other entities,
23 such as universities; and

24 “(E) a 5-year plan that describes the abil-
25 ity of the eligible entity to provide the services

1 described under subsection (a)(3), including to
2 a representative number of women who are so-
3 cially or economically disadvantaged.

4 “(2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS
5 FOR INITIAL GRANTS.—

6 “(A) REVIEW AND SELECTION OF ELIGI-
7 BLE ENTITIES.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
9 shall review applications to determine
10 whether the applicant can meet obligations
11 to perform the activities required by a
12 grant under this section, including—

13 “(I) the experience of the appli-
14 cant in conducting activities required
15 by this section;

16 “(II) the amount of time needed
17 for the applicant to commence oper-
18 ations should it be awarded a grant;

19 “(III) the capacity of the appli-
20 cant to meet the accreditation stand-
21 ards established by the Administrator
22 in a timely manner;

23 “(IV) the ability of the applicant
24 to sustain operations for more than 5
25 years (including its ability to obtain

1 sufficient non-Federal funds for that
2 period);

3 “(V) the location of the women’s
4 business center and its proximity to
5 other grant recipients under this sec-
6 tion; and

7 “(VI) the population density of
8 the area to be served by the women’s
9 business center.

10 “(ii) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

11 “(I) GUIDANCE.—The Adminis-
12 trator shall issue guidance (after pro-
13 viding an opportunity for notice and
14 comment) to specify the criteria for
15 review and selection of applicants
16 under this subsection.

17 “(II) MODIFICATIONS PROHIB-
18 ITED AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT.—With
19 respect to a public announcement of
20 any opportunity to be awarded a
21 grant under this section made by the
22 Administrator pursuant to subsection
23 (l)(1), the Administrator may not
24 modify guidance issued pursuant to
25 subclause (I) with respect to such op-

1 portunity unless required to do so by
2 an Act of Congress or an order of a
3 Federal court.

4 “(III) RULE OF CONSTRU-
5 TION.—Nothing in this clause may be
6 construed as prohibiting the Adminis-
7 trator from modifying the guidance
8 issued pursuant to subclause (I) (after
9 providing an opportunity for notice
10 and comment) as such guidance ap-
11 plies to an opportunity to be awarded
12 a grant under this section that the
13 Administrator has not yet publicly an-
14 nounced pursuant to subsection (l)(1).

15 “(B) RECORD RETENTION.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
17 shall maintain a copy of each application
18 submitted under this subsection for not
19 less than 5 years.

20 “(ii) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The
21 Administrator shall take steps to reduce,
22 to the maximum extent practicable, the pa-
23 perwork burden associated with carrying
24 out clause (i).”.

1 (f) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE
2 WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—Section 29 of
3 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended by
4 inserting after subsection (k) the following:

5 “(1) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE
6 WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—The Adminis-
7 trator shall provide—

8 “(1) a public announcement of any opportunity
9 to be awarded grants under this section, and such
10 announcement shall include the standards by which
11 such award will be made, including the guidance
12 issued pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii);

13 “(2) the opportunity for any applicant for a
14 grant under this section that failed to obtain such
15 a grant a debriefing with the Assistant Adminis-
16 trator to review the reasons for the applicant’s fail-
17 ure; and

18 “(3) with respect to any site visit or evaluation
19 of an eligible entity receiving a grant under this sec-
20 tion that is carried out by an officer or employee of
21 the Administration (other than the Inspector Gen-
22 eral), a copy of the site visit report or evaluation, as
23 applicable, within 30 calendar days of the completion
24 of such vision or evaluation.”.

1 (g) CONTINUED FUNDING FOR CENTERS.—Section
2 29(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)) is
3 amended—

4 (1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(3) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL FOR CON-
7 TINUATION GRANTS.—

8 “(A) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—

9 The Administrator shall solicit applications and
10 award continuation grants under this subsection
11 for the first fiscal year beginning after the date
12 of enactment of this paragraph, and every third
13 fiscal year thereafter.

14 “(B) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each
15 eligible entity desiring a grant under this sub-
16 section shall submit to the Administrator an ap-
17 plication that contains—

18 “(i) a certification that the appli-
19 cant—

20 “(I) is an eligible entity;

21 “(II) has designated an executive
22 director or program manager to man-
23 age the women’s business center oper-
24 ated by the applicant; and

1 “(III) as a condition of receiving
2 a grant under this subsection,
3 agrees—

4 “(aa) to receive a site visit
5 as part of the final selection
6 process, at the discretion of the
7 Administrator; and

8 “(bb) to remedy any prob-
9 lem identified pursuant to the
10 site visit under item (aa);

11 “(ii) information demonstrating that
12 the applicant has the ability and resources
13 to meet the needs of the market to be
14 served by the women’s business center for
15 which a grant under this subsection is
16 sought, including the ability to obtain the
17 non-Federal contribution required under
18 paragraph (4)(C);

19 “(iii) information relating to assist-
20 ance to be provided by the women’s busi-
21 ness center in the geographic area served
22 by the women’s business center for which
23 a grant under this subsection is sought;

24 “(iv) information demonstrating that
25 the applicant has worked with resource

1 partners of the Administration and other
2 entities;

3 “(v) a 3-year plan that describes the
4 services provided by the women’s business
5 center for which a grant under this sub-
6 section is sought—

7 “(I) to serve women who are
8 business owners or potential business
9 owners by conducting training and
10 counseling activities; and

11 “(II) to provide training and
12 services to a representative number of
13 women who are socially or economi-
14 cally disadvantaged; and

15 “(vi) any additional information that
16 the Administrator may reasonably require.

17 “(C) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICA-
18 TIONS FOR GRANTS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Adminis-
20 trator—

21 “(I) shall review each application
22 submitted under subparagraph (B),
23 based on the information described in
24 such subparagraph and the criteria

1 set forth under clause (ii) of this sub-
2 paragraph; and

3 “(II) as part of the final selection
4 process, may, at the discretion of the
5 Administrator, conduct a site visit to
6 each women’s business center for
7 which a grant under this subsection is
8 sought, in particular to evaluate the
9 women’s business center using the se-
10 lection criteria described in clause
11 (ii)(II).

12 “(ii) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

13 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Admin-
14 istrator shall evaluate applicants for
15 grants under this subsection in ac-
16 cordance with selection criteria that
17 are—

18 “(aa) established before the
19 date on which applicants are re-
20 quired to submit the applications;

21 “(bb) stated in terms of rel-
22 ative importance; and

23 “(cc) publicly available and
24 stated in each solicitation for ap-
25 plications for grants under this

1 subsection made by the Adminis-
2 trator.

3 “(II) REQUIRED CRITERIA.—The
4 selection criteria for a grant under
5 this subsection shall include—

6 “(aa) the total number of
7 entrepreneurs served by the ap-
8 plicant;

9 “(bb) the total number of
10 new startup companies assisted
11 by the applicant;

12 “(cc) the percentage of cli-
13 ents of the applicant that are so-
14 cially or economically disadvan-
15 taged;

16 “(dd) the percentage of indi-
17 viduals in the community served
18 by the applicant who are socially
19 or economically disadvantaged;

20 “(ee) the successful accredi-
21 tation of the applicant under the
22 accreditation program developed
23 under subsection (g)(5); and

1 “(ff) any additional criteria
2 that the Administrator may rea-
3 sonably require.

4 “(iii) CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED
5 FUNDING.—In determining whether to
6 make a grant under this subsection, the
7 Administrator—

8 “(I) shall consider the results of
9 the most recent evaluation of the
10 women’s business center for which a
11 grant under this subsection is sought,
12 and, to a lesser extent, previous eval-
13 uations; and

14 “(II) may withhold a grant under
15 this subsection, if the Administrator
16 determines that the applicant has
17 failed to provide the information re-
18 quired to be provided under this para-
19 graph, or the information provided by
20 the applicant is inadequate.

21 “(D) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60
22 calendar days after the date of each deadline to
23 submit applications under this paragraph, the
24 Administrator shall approve or deny each sub-

1 mitted application and notify the applicant for
2 each such application of the approval or denial.

3 “(E) RECORD RETENTION.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
5 shall maintain a copy of each application
6 submitted under this paragraph for not
7 less than 5 years.

8 “(ii) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The
9 Administrator shall take steps to reduce,
10 to the maximum extent practicable, the pa-
11 perwork burden associated with carrying
12 out clause (i).”; and

13 (2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(5) AWARD TO PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS.—There
16 shall be no limitation on the number of times the
17 Administrator may award a grant to an applicant
18 under this subsection.”.

19 (h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
20 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “to award
23 a contract (as a sustainability grant) under sub-
24 section (l) or”;

1 (2) in subsection (j)(1), by striking “The Ad-
2 ministration” and inserting “Not later than Novem-
3 ber 1 of each year, the Administrator”;

4 (3) in subsection (k)—

5 (A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (4);

6 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) the
7 following:

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
9 appropriated to the Administration to carry out this
10 section, to remain available until expended,
11 \$21,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through
12 2021.”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
14 graph (B) and inserting the following:

15 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Of the amount made
16 available under this subsection for a fiscal year,
17 the following amounts shall be available for se-
18 lection panel costs, costs associated with main-
19 taining an accreditation program, and post-
20 award conference costs:

21 “(i) For the first fiscal year beginning
22 after the date of the enactment of this sub-
23 paragraph, 2.65 percent.

24 “(ii) For the second fiscal year begin-
25 ning after the date of the enactment of

1 this subparagraph and each fiscal year
2 thereafter through fiscal year 2021, 2.5
3 percent.”; and

4 (4) in subsection (m)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
6 section (b) or (l)” and inserting “this sub-
7 section or subsection (b)”;

8 (B) in paragraph (4)(D), by striking “or
9 subsection (l)”.

10 (i) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRANTS.—

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

23 (2) LENGTH OF CONTINUATION GRANT.—The
24 Administrator of the Small Business Administration
25 may award a grant under section 29(m) of the Small

1 Business Act to a nonprofit organization receiving a
2 grant under section 29(m) of the Small Business
3 Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day be-
4 fore the date of enactment of this Act, for the pe-
5 riod—

6 (A) beginning on the day after the last day
7 of the grant agreement under such section
8 29(m); and

9 (B) ending at the end of the third fiscal
10 year beginning after the date of enactment of
11 this Act.

12 **SEC. 204. MATCHING REQUIREMENTS UNDER WOMEN'S**
13 **BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

14 Section 29(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
15 656(c)), as amended by this Act, is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “As a condi-
17 tion” and inserting “Subject to paragraph (6), as a
18 condition”; and

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

20 “(9) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by an
22 eligible entity, and in accordance with this para-
23 graph, the Administrator may waive, in whole
24 or in part, the requirement to obtain non-Fed-
25 eral funds under this subsection for counseling

1 and training activities of the eligible entity car-
2 ried out using a grant under this section for a
3 fiscal year. The Administrator may not waive
4 the requirement for an eligible entity to obtain
5 non-Federal funds under this paragraph for
6 more than a total of 2 consecutive fiscal years.

7 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
8 whether to waive the requirement to obtain
9 non-Federal funds under this paragraph, the
10 Administrator shall consider—

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

13 “(ii) the impact a waiver under this
14 paragraph would have on the credibility of
15 the Women’s Business Center Program
16 under this section;

17 “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the
18 eligible entity to raise non-Federal funds;
19 and

20 “(iv) the performance of the eligible
21 entity.

22 “(C) LIMITATION.—The Administrator
23 may not waive the requirement to obtain non-
24 Federal funds under this paragraph if granting

1 the waiver would undermine the credibility of
2 the Women’s Business Center Program.

3 “(10) SOLICITATION.—Notwithstanding any
4 other provision of law, eligible entity may—

5 “(A) solicit cash and in-kind contributions
6 from private individuals and entities to be used
7 to carry out the activities of the eligible entity
8 under the project conducted under this section;
9 and

10 “(B) use amounts made available by the
11 Administrator under this section for the cost of
12 such solicitation and management of the con-
13 tributions received.

14 “(11) EXCESS NON-FEDERAL DOLLARS.—The
15 amount of non-Federal dollars obtained by an eligi-
16 ble entity that is above the amount that is required
17 to be obtained by the eligible entity under this sub-
18 section shall not be subject to the requirements of
19 part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or
20 any successor thereto, if such amount of non-Fed-
21 eral dollars—

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

1 “(B) was not obtained using funds from
2 the Women’s Business Center Program.”.

3 **TITLE III—SCORE PROGRAM**
4 **REAUTHORIZATION**

5 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

6 This title may be cited as the “SCORE for Small
7 Business Act of 2017”.

8 **SEC. 302. SCORE REAUTHORIZATION.**

9 Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631
10 note) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-
12 section (f); and

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

14 “(g) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be
15 appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the
16 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums
17 as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or
18 enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that
19 does not exceed \$10,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2018
20 and 2019.”.

21 **SEC. 303. SCORE PROGRAM.**

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

24 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “a Serv-
25 ice Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)” and in-

1 serting “the SCORE program described in sub-
2 section (c)”; and

3 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

6 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection:

7 “(A) SCORE ASSOCIATION.—The term
8 ‘SCORE Association’ means the Service Corps
9 of Retired Executives Association or any suc-
10 cessor or other organization who receives a
11 grant from the Administrator to operate the
12 SCORE program under paragraph (2)(A).

13 “(B) SCORE PROGRAM.—The term
14 ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program
15 authorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

16 “(2) MANAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
18 shall provide a grant to the SCORE Association
19 to manage the SCORE program.

20 “(B) VOLUNTEERS.—A volunteer partici-
21 pating in the SCORE program shall—

22 “(i) based on the business experience
23 and knowledge of the volunteer—

24 “(I) provide at no cost to individ-
25 uals who own, or aspire to own, small

1 business concerns personal counseling,
2 mentoring, and coaching relating to
3 the process of starting, expanding,
4 managing, buying, and selling a busi-
5 ness; and

6 “(II) facilitate low-cost education
7 workshops for individuals who own, or
8 aspire to own, small business con-
9 cerns; and

10 “(ii) as appropriate, use tools, re-
11 sources, and expertise of other organiza-
12 tions to carry out the SCORE program.

13 “(3) PLANS AND GOALS.—The Administrator,
14 in consultation with the SCORE Association, shall
15 ensure that the SCORE program and each chapter
16 of the SCORE program develop and implement
17 plans and goals to more effectively and efficiently
18 provide services to individuals in rural areas, eco-
19 nomically disadvantaged communities, and other tra-
20 ditionally underserved communities, including plans
21 for electronic initiatives, web-based initiatives, chap-
22 ter expansion, partnerships, and the development of
23 new skills by volunteers participating in the SCORE
24 program.

1 “(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The SCORE Associa-
2 tion shall submit to the Administrator an annual re-
3 port that contains—

4 “(A) the number of individuals counseled
5 or trained under the SCORE program;

6 “(B) the number of hours of counseling
7 provided under the SCORE program; and

8 “(C) to the extent possible—

9 “(i) the number of small business con-
10 cerns formed with assistance from the
11 SCORE program;

12 “(ii) the number of small business
13 concerns expanded with assistance from
14 the SCORE program; and

15 “(iii) the number of jobs created with
16 assistance from the SCORE program.

17 “(5) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Adminis-
19 trator nor the SCORE Association may disclose
20 the name, address, or telephone number of any
21 individual or small business concern receiving
22 assistance from the SCORE Association with-
23 out the consent of such individual or small busi-
24 ness concern, unless—

1 “(i) the Administrator is ordered to
2 make such a disclosure by a court in any
3 civil or criminal enforcement action initi-
4 ated by a Federal or State agency; or

5 “(ii) the Administrator determines
6 such a disclosure to be necessary for the
7 purpose of conducting a financial audit of
8 the SCORE program, in which case disclo-
9 sure shall be limited to the information
10 necessary for the audit.

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

13 “(i) restrict the access of the Adminis-
14 trator to program activity data; or

15 “(ii) prevent the Administrator from
16 using client information to conduct client
17 surveys.

18 “(C) STANDARDS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
20 shall, after the opportunity for notice and
21 comment, establish standards for—

22 “(I) disclosures with respect to
23 financial audits under subparagraph
24 (A)(ii); and

1 “(II) conducting client surveys,
2 including standards for oversight of
3 the surveys and for dissemination and
4 use of client information.

5 “(ii) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTEC-
6 TION.—The standards issued under this
7 subparagraph shall, to the extent prac-
8 ticable, provide for the maximum amount
9 of privacy protection.”.

10 **SEC. 304. ONLINE COMPONENT.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(c) of the Small Busi-
12 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 637(c)), as amended by section 3,
13 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(6) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In carrying out
15 this subsection, the SCORE Association shall make
16 use of online counseling, including by developing and
17 implementing webinars and an electronic mentoring
18 platform to expand access to services provided under
19 this subsection and to further support entre-
20 preneurs.”.

21 (b) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the end of fiscal year
23 2018, the SCORE Association shall issue a report to
24 the Committee on Small Business of the House of
25 Representatives and the Committee on Small Busi-

1 ness and Entrepreneurship of the Senate on the ef-
2 fectiveness of the online counseling and webinars re-
3 quired as part of the SCORE program, including—

4 (A) how the SCORE Association deter-
5 mines electronic mentoring and webinar needs,
6 develops training for electronic mentoring, es-
7 tablishes webinar criteria curricula, and evalu-
8 ates webinar and electronic mentoring results;

9 (B) describing the internal controls that
10 are used and a summary of the topics covered
11 by the webinars; and

12 (C) performance metrics, including the
13 number of small business concerns counseled
14 by, the number of small business concerns cre-
15 ated by, the number of jobs created and re-
16 tained by, and the funding amounts directed to-
17 wards such online counseling and webinars.

18 (2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
19 section, the terms “SCORE Association” and
20 “SCORE program” have the meaning given those
21 terms, respectively, under section 8(c)(1) of the
22 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(c)(1)).

1 **SEC. 305. STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF**
2 **THE SCORE PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **STUDY.**—The SCORE Association shall carry out
4 a study on the future role of the SCORE program and
5 develop a strategic plan for how the SCORE program will
6 evolve to meet the needs of small business concerns and
7 potential future small business concerns over the course
8 of the 5 years following the date of enactment of this Act,
9 with markers and specific objectives for year 1, year 3,
10 and year 5.

11 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than the end of the 6-month
12 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
13 the SCORE Association shall issue a report to the Com-
14 mittee on Small Business of the House of Representatives
15 and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneur-
16 ship of the Senate containing—

17 (1) all findings and determination made in car-
18 rying out the study required under subsection (a);

19 (2) the strategic plan developed under sub-
20 section (a);

21 (3) an explanation of how the SCORE Associa-
22 tion plans to achieve the strategic plan, assuming
23 both stagnant and increased funding levels.

24 (c) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the
25 terms “SCORE Association” and “SCORE program”
26 have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under

1 section 8(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
2 637(c)(1)).

3 **SEC. 306. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

4 (a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act
5 (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) in section 7(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII) (15 U.S.C.
7 636(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII)), by striking “Service Corps
8 of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE pro-
9 gram”; and

10 (2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

11 (A) in subsection (b)—

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

15 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
16 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and
17 inserting “SCORE program”; and

18 (B) in subsection (c)(12), by striking
19 “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and in-
20 serting “SCORE program”.

21 (b) OTHER LAWS.—

22 (1) CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
23 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009.—Section 621 of the
24 Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthoriza-
25 tion Act of 2009 (15 U.S.C. 657p) is amended—

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

3 “(4) the term ‘SCORE program’ means the
4 SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1)(B)
5 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
6 637(b)(1)(B));”; and

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

10 (2) ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION
11 ACT.—Section 337(d)(2)(A) of the Energy Policy
12 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6307(d)(2)(A)) is
13 amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Ex-
14 ecutives (SCORE)” and inserting “SCORE pro-
15 gram”.

○