

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2000

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish and carry out a program that assists military spouses in establishing small business concerns, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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## A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish and carry out a program that assists military spouses in establishing small business concerns, 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 “Military Spouse Entre-  
5       preneurship Act of 2023”.

6       **SEC. 2. ENTREPRENEURSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY**  
7                               **SPOUSES.**

8       (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
2           trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-  
3           ness Administration.

4           (2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term  
5           “small business concern” has the meaning given the  
6           term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15  
7           U.S.C. 632).

8           (b) PROGRAM.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
10          the Administrator shall establish a program within  
11          the Small Business Administration, the purpose of  
12          which shall be to assist military spouses in forming,  
13          operating, and growing small business concerns.

14          (2) EXTENSION OF EXISTING PROGRAM.—In  
15          lieu of establishing a new program, the Adminis-  
16          trator may carry out the purpose described in para-  
17          graph (1) through an extension of a program that  
18          is in existence, as of the date of enactment of this  
19          Act, if that extension is tailored to military spouses  
20          and otherwise achieves that purpose and satisfies the  
21          requirements of this section.

22          (c) ASSISTANCE.—The assistance provided by the  
23          Administrator under the program described in subsection  
24          (b) shall include the following:

1           (1) Assistance for military spouses in identi-  
2           fying and understanding the requirements with re-  
3           spect to forming and operating a small business con-  
4           cern.

5           (2) Assistance for military spouses in strength-  
6           ening the expertise and skills necessary for the for-  
7           mation and operation of a small business concern,  
8           including the expertise and skills necessary to create  
9           a sustainable small business concern throughout the  
10          uniquely challenging requirements of life as a mili-  
11          tary spouse, which arise as a result of—

12                   (A) military deployments;

13                   (B) military-related absences from the  
14          workforce; or

15                   (C) multiple permanent changes of duty  
16          station or other long-term relocations for mili-  
17          tary reasons.

18          (3) Through military spouse entrepreneurship  
19          organizations and business volunteer entities (includ-  
20          ing by entering into cooperative agreements with  
21          those organizations and entities), providing  
22          mentorship to military spouses with respect to entre-  
23          preneurship.

24          (4) Any other assistance that the Administrator  
25          determines to be appropriate.

1 (d) SURVEY; REPORT.—

2 (1) SURVEY.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in  
4 consultation with such nonprofit organizations  
5 and other stakeholders determined appropriate  
6 by the Administrator, shall conduct a survey at  
7 select military installations to identify the bar-  
8 riers to forming, operating, and growing small  
9 business concerns that are faced by military  
10 spouses as a result of life as a military spouse,  
11 including as a result of the conditions described  
12 in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of sub-  
13 section (c)(2).

14 (B) ANALYSIS REQUIRED.—The survey  
15 conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include  
16 an analysis of the challenges that military  
17 spouses face in accessing capital and other crit-  
18 ical resources with respect to forming, oper-  
19 ating, and growing small business concerns, in-  
20 cluding the education, mentoring, and training  
21 that is required to form, operate, and grow a  
22 small business concern.

23 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
25 shall submit to the Committee on Small Business

1 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Com-  
2 mittee on Small Business of the House of Rep-  
3 resentatives a report containing the results of the  
4 survey conducted under paragraph (1).

5 (e) USE OF RESULTS; OUTREACH.—In carrying out  
6 the program described in subsection (b), the Adminis-  
7 trator shall—

8 (1) take into consideration the results of the  
9 survey conducted under subsection (d)(1); and

10 (2) develop an outreach program to ensure that  
11 the program becomes well-known.

12 (f) CONSULTATION PERMITTED.—In carrying out  
13 this section, the Administrator may consult with the Sec-  
14 retary of Defense, as determined necessary by the Admin-  
15 istrator.

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