

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2020

Chairman Marco Rubio
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Benjamin Cardin
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rubio and Ranking Member Cardin:

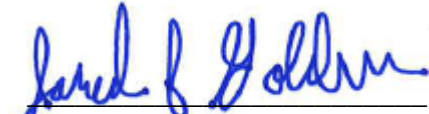




We appreciate the important work that you and your committee members have done to craft and improve the COVID-19 relief programs at the Small Business Administration (SBA) and we hope to continue to work between the House and Senate in a bipartisan way to support America's small businesses during this difficult time. Today, we write to urge you to build on this work by taking up and passing SBA reauthorization legislation so that small businesses across the country will receive the best help possible from SBA as they navigate the pandemic response, re-opening process, and begin the difficult path to economic recovery. Our committee and the House of Representatives have already passed a slate of bipartisan bills to reauthorize SBA's range of programs, and we strongly encourage your committee to do the same. Our country's small businesses need SBA's—and its resource partners'—assistance now more than ever.

Recently, our committee held a forum in which we heard from Small Business Development Centers and their clients about the vital work they are doing to help small businesses apply for the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, as well as to pivot their business plans to adapt to new challenges and new opportunities inherent in the pandemic environment and its accompanying economic fallout. We heard about how beneficial it would be to have the SBDC program reauthorized to provide them with greater resources in the long term and to market their services to reach new clients without fear of triggering scrutiny of their statutory authorization to do so. H.R. 4406, the Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act, passed the House last year with 375 votes in favor. It would fix these issues and it has been referred to your committee without further action since October 2019. We know you understand the urgency of bolstering business advising services during this uncertain period and ask that you consider taking action on this important bipartisan legislation.

As members of the House Small Business Committee, we understood long before the arrival of COVID-19 that SBA has a critical role in supporting economic development throughout the country, and we know that you share this understanding. Now that the pandemic and related social distancing measures have created mass economic disruption, SBA's importance has been

made plain to our off-committee colleagues as well. We hope that you will take hold of this opportunity to make substantial and necessary improvements to SBA programs—and the fortunes of the small businesses SBA serves—by quickly advancing SBA reauthorization legislation.

Sincerely,


Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress
Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress