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## **HOUSE APPROVES RECORD FUNDING FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN FY2020 APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Association of Women's Business Centers commends the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) spending bill, which provides a record \$35 million in funding for the Women's Business Center (WBC) program.

The Committee passed the bill with \$30 million for the program, and Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) secured an additional \$5 million in funding for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Entrepreneurial Development intended for the WBC program.

In response to the passage of this bill, AWBC CEO Corinne Hodges released the following statement:

*"For the past three decades, the WBC program has contributed to the economic empowerment of women through their critical services. Centers all over the country assist the socially and economically disadvantaged with training and access to capital necessary to start and grow a business. The passage of this bill is a clear statement of support for the growing numbers of female entrepreneurs in America and I want to thank Chairs Lowey and Quigley, Representative Waters, and Members of the House for their leadership and support."*

The WBC program is a public private partnership with the SBA. Federal funds allow 114 centers at 150 locations nationwide to provide training, mentoring, counseling, and access to capital to over 150,000 clients annually.

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**About AWBC:** The AWBC ([www.awbc.org](http://www.awbc.org)) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1998 to support the national network of Women's Business Centers (WBCs) with programming and advocacy. Each year, our members leverage WBC grants to operate more than 150 locations throughout the United States. WBCs have more than 25 years of success in providing business training, counseling, mentoring, and access to capital to women entrepreneurs. The WBC program is a public-private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.