AWBC Board Member and Managing Director of Maryland Women’s Business Center Testifies Before Congress on Impact of Women’s Business Centers Program
Testimony detailed the impact of WBCs and recommendations for program reauthorization

Washington, D.C. – Today the Managing Director of the Maryland Women’s Business Center, Kiesha Haughton, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship in a hearing on reauthorization of the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) entrepreneurial development programs. Ms. Haughton, who is also on the Board of the Association of Women’s Business Centers (AWBC), updated the Committee on the success of the Women’s Business Center (WBC) program in assisting women entrepreneurs through business training, counseling, and access to capital, as well as the efforts of the Maryland WBC to tailor its services to the Maryland small business community. In addition, she presented recommendations for improving the WBC program during reauthorization.

In her testimony, Ms. Haughton detailed the incredible efficacy of the WBC program in supporting the talents of women business owners through their network of 114 centers nationwide. She also highlighted the successful programming offered at the Maryland WBC and urged Congress to modernize WBC program and increase funding levels to individual centers.

Corinne Hodges, CEO of AWBC, voiced her support of the testimony:

“We are proud to have an AWBC board member testify before Congress on the important role the WBC program plays in growing and supporting the women-owned small business community. As an on-the-ground practitioner in her role as Managing Director of the Maryland WBC, Ms. Haughton is well versed in the day-to-day operations of a women’s business center, and can provide valuable insights to Congress on what is going well with the program and where there are opportunities for improvements. We are thankful to the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship for holding this hearing and we are excited to work together on reauthorization in the upcoming year.”

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About AWBC: The AWBC (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 30 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.