AWBC CEO Testifies Before Congress on Impact of Women’s Business Centers Program

Testimony detailed the explosive growth of women’s entrepreneurship

Washington, D.C. – Today the Association of Women’s Business Centers (AWBC) CEO Corinne Hodges testified before the U.S. House Committee on Small Business in a hearing to review SBA entrepreneurial development programs. Ms. Hodges updated the committee and its many newly elected Members on the progress of the Women’s Business Center (WBC) program and its effective service to women entrepreneurs and women-owned small businesses nationwide.

In her testimony, Hodges detailed the explosive growth of women’s entrepreneurship and the impact that the network of 114 WBCs across the country has had on women entrepreneurs and their communities. She also urged the new Congress to advance policies that foster the expansion of women’s business ownership by modernizing the WBC program and increasing funding levels in line with the expansion of centers seen over the past few decades.

“The WBC program continues to fulfill its Congressional mandate of ensuring that women’s entrepreneurial drive is fueled by adequate training, resources and access to capital to keep the small business engine of the economy thriving. It is the only program statutorily dedicated to serving “economically and socially disadvantaged” women. Nonetheless, Congress should act to strengthen and modernize the program, in turn supporting entrepreneurial growth nationwide.”

Along with Ms. Hodges, representatives from SBA’s other resource partners, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Veteran’s Business Outreach Centers (VBOC) and SCORE, were invited to participate in the Small Business Committee hearing.

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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.