Yesterday evening the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4405, *The Women’s Business Centers Improvement Act of 2019*. Upon passage of the bill the Association of Women’s Business Centers (AWBC) CEO Corinne Hodges is releasing the following statement:

“On behalf of the network of 114 Women’s Business Centers nationwide, we applaud the House’s passage of H.R. 4405, and in particular Representatives Sharice Davids (D-KS) and Jim Hagedorn (R-MN) for championing this effort. Strengthening the Women’s Business Center program is the most tangible policy Congress can enact to support America’s 12.3 million women entrepreneurs. This is an exciting moment in the continued growth of women’s business ownership, and we call on the Senate to take action and pass this critical legislation.”

H.R. 4405 makes critical improvements to the WBC program by lifting the cap on individual center grants to $300,000 allowing centers to expand their reach, establishing an accreditation program to raise the standards of excellence across centers, and increasing authorization levels to a record $31.5M, providing room for the program to grow in line with the explosive growth of America’s women entrepreneurs.