

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1702

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the small business development centers program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2017

Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mrs. RADEWAGEN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the small business development centers program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This subtitle may be cited as the “Small Business
5 Development Centers Improvement Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVEL-**
7 **OPMENT PROGRAMS.**

8 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
9 amended—

1 (1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48;

2 and

3 (2) by inserting after section 46 the following

4 new section:

5 **“SEC. 47. USE OF AUTHORIZED ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.**

6 **“(a) EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS.—**

7 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of law, the Administrator shall only use
9 the programs authorized in sections 7(j), 7(m), 8(a),
10 8(b)(1), 21, 22, 29, and 32 of this Act, and sections
11 358 and 389 of the Small Business Investment Act
12 to deliver entrepreneurial development services, en-
13 trepreneurial education, support for the development
14 and maintenance of clusters, or business training.

15 **“(2) EXCEPTION.—**This section shall not apply
16 to services provided to assist small business concerns
17 owned by an Indian tribe (as such term is defined
18 in section 8(a)(13)).

19 **“(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—**Beginning on the first De-
20 cember 1 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
21 the Administrator shall annually report to the Committee
22 on Small Business of the House of Representatives and
23 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
24 of the Senate on all entrepreneurial development activities
25

1 undertaken in the current fiscal year. This report shall
2 include—

3 “(1) a description and operating details for
4 each program and activity;

5 “(2) operating circulars, manuals, and standard
6 operating procedures for each program and activity;

7 “(3) a description of the process used to award
8 grants under each program and activity;

9 “(4) a list of all awardees, contractors, and ven-
10 dors (including organization name and location) and
11 the amount of awards for the current fiscal year for
12 each program and activity;

13 “(5) the amount of funding obligated for the
14 current fiscal year for each program and activity;
15 and

16 “(6) the names and titles for those individuals
17 responsible for each program and activity.”.

18 **SEC. 3. MARKETING OF SERVICES.**

19 Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648)
20 is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(o) NO PROHIBITION OF MARKETING OF SERV-
22 ICES.—The Administrator shall not prohibit applicants re-
23 ceiving grants under this section from marketing and ad-
24 vertising their services to individuals and small business
25 concerns.”.

1 **SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a)(3)(A) of the Small
3 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “as provided in this section
5 and” and inserting “as provided in this section,”;
6 and

7 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
8 following: “, and (iv) governing data collection ac-
9 tivities related to applicants receiving grants under
10 this section”.

11 (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—Sec-
12 tion 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as
13 amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by
14 adding at the end the following:

15 “(p) ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.—The
16 Administrator shall report annually to the Committee on
17 Small Business of the House of Representatives and the
18 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
19 the Senate on any data collection activities related to the
20 Small Business Development Center program.”.

21 (c) WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLEC-
22 TION.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND STUDY.—The Admin-
24 istrator of the Small Business Administration shall
25 establish a Data Collection Working Group con-
26 sisting of members from entrepreneurial develop-

1 ment grant recipients associations and organizations
2 and Administration officials, to carry out a study to
3 determine the best way to capture data collection
4 and create or revise existing systems dedicated to
5 data collection.

6 (2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the
7 180-day period beginning on the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Data Collection Working
9 Group shall issue a report to the Committee on
10 Small Business of the House of Representatives and
11 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
12 neurship of the Senate containing the findings and
13 determinations made in carrying out the study re-
14 quired under paragraph (1), including—

15 (A) recommendations for revising existing
16 data collection practices; and

17 (B) a proposed plan for the Small Busi-
18 ness Administration to implement such rec-
19 ommendations.

20 **SEC. 5. FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-**
21 **SPONSORSHIPS.**

22 Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15
23 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(C)), as amended by section 4, is further
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(D) FEES FROM PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-
2 SPONSORSHIPS.—Participation in private partnerships
3 and cosponsorships with the Administration shall not limit
4 small business development centers from collecting fees or
5 other income related to the operation of such private part-
6 nerships and cosponsorships.”.

7 **SEC. 6. EQUITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CEN-
8 TERS.**

9 Subclause (I) of section 21(a)(4)(C)(v) of the Small
10 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(v)) is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Of the
13 amounts made available in any fiscal
14 year to carry out this section not
15 more than \$600,000 may be used by
16 the Administration to pay expenses
17 enumerated in subparagraphs (B)
18 through (D) of section 20(a)(1).”.

19 **SEC. 7. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.**

20 Section 21(a)(7)(A) of the Small Business Act (15
21 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)) is amended by inserting after
22 “under this section” the following: “to any State, local or
23 Federal agency, or third party”.

1 **SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS TO SMALL**
2 **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of the Small Business
4 Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended by section 4, is further
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “any wom-
7 en’s business center operating pursuant to section
8 29,”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(q) LIMITATION ON AWARD OF GRANTS.—Except
11 for not-for-profit institutions of higher education, and not-
12 withstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator
13 may not award grants (including contracts and coopera-
14 tive agreements) under this section to any entity other
15 than those that received grants (including contracts and
16 cooperative agreements) under this section prior to the
17 date of the enactment of this subsection, and that seek
18 to renew such grants (including contracts and cooperative
19 agreements) after such date.”.

20 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments
21 made by this section may not be construed as prohibiting
22 a women’s business center from receiving a subgrant from
23 an entity receiving a grant under section 21 of the Small
24 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648).

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