



July 24, 2019

Honorable Marco Rubio, Chairman  
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
428 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rubio,

America's SBDCs, the association representing the 63 small business development center (SBDC) networks and their nearly 1,000 centers, wishes to express its support for the Small Business Administration Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2019. This bill is both timely and necessary to rejuvenate and restore vital programs and services delivered through the Small Business Administration.

In particular, SBDCs wish to express their strong support for Title VI which reauthorizes and updates the entrepreneurial development programs. We support the development of "entrepreneurial development networks" under which the entrepreneurial development programs (SBDCs, WBCs, and VBOCs) can meet, collaborate and coordinate their activities in order to provide better and more comprehensive services for small business.

We also strongly support the language reinforcing the cooperative and negotiated relationship that exists between SBA and SBDCs, their largest resource partner. That concept of partnership is vital to maintaining and building a vibrant, creative and innovative entrepreneurial assistance network.

In that vein we also support your efforts to build cyber-security resources for small business in Title IV. This language builds on the resources that SBDCs are already providing and developing to help small business assess, plan for and fight cyber threats.

We also support the changes in section 311 in support of the STEP program, which will increase its effectiveness. However, we would respectfully suggest some greater flexibility in the limits on use of that program's resources.

Finally, we wholeheartedly support the language in section 605 to expand our already significant relationships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Again, thank you for this timely legislation. America's SBDCs look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Edward Rowe III".

C. Edward Rowe III  
President/CEO