



**Queens Economic
Development Corporation**

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Hon. Grace Meng
United States House of Representatives
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

The mission of the Queens Economic Development Corporation is to create and retain jobs through programming that assists small businesses and encourages entrepreneurship with an emphasis on those of low and moderate income, women, minorities and immigrants. For almost twenty years, our organization has hosted the SBA-funded Women's Business Center (WBC) for Queens County. As such, we support your bill to amend Title IV of the Women's Business Ownership Act to reauthorize the Interagency Committee.

Women, especially those from low/moderate immigrant and minority communities, are crucial in the creation of new business in Queens County. Through our WBC we provide individual counseling, classes, and networking events designed to help women succeed. In this fiscal year our WBC has counseled 357 individuals and trained over 1783 people at 145 events. The majority of these businesses are sole proprietorships at their early stages of growth.

Small business is the economic engine of Queens County, with over 45,000 businesses that have fewer than 5 employees. These companies need support and education in order to succeed. By passing this bill women-owned businesses will be the beneficiary of targeted assistance that can only result in business growth, added employment, and economic development in our community.

Sincerely.

Andrea Ormeño
Director
QEDC Women's Business Center