



October 24, 2023

The Honorable Joni Ernst
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Ernst:

On behalf of the National Small Business Association¹ (NSBA) and its more than 65,000 members, as well as the millions of small businesses across the nation, we write in full support of the *SCORE Act of 2023*. This legislation takes several long-overdue steps to modernize, expand, and improve the Small Business Administration's (SBA) SCORE program, and better aligns its services with the ever-changing needs of the small business community.

In partnership with the SBA, SCORE supports a network of volunteer, expert business mentors dedicated to helping small businesses launch, manage, and grow. The program offers area-specific advice on an ongoing basis to entrepreneurs across the country, all at no cost. Given the myriad barriers these businesses face, the SCORE program serves as a critical lifeline for entrepreneurs as they seek access to capital, develop new technologies, and improve their business capabilities.

The partnership between SCORE and the SBA speaks for itself - since its inception in 1964, it has helped millions of small businesses across virtually every stage and industry. The NSBA supports this important work and believes the changes included in the *SCORE Act of 2023* will help ensure the program can have an even greater impact.

In addition to its broad support for the SCORE program, NSBA also specifically supports a provision requiring the current SCORE cooperative agreement to be recompeteted every five years. NSBA has long held that competitive grants are a proven tool to bring entrepreneurial training to the American public, and the provision is in keeping with that position. The requirement would also ensure the contract awardee provides relevant business training to small businesses, and that their goals are aligned with the broader entrepreneurship community as a whole. NSBA also supports commonsense reforms included in the bill which would improve the mentorship structure, driving performance and accountability across the board.

We therefore urge lawmakers to support the *SCORE Act of 2023* and look forward to working with you to see it enacted.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken".

Todd McCracken
President & CEO
National Small Business Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reed Westcott".

Reed Westcott
Director of Federal Policy
National Small Business Association

¹ Founded in 1937, NSBA is the nation's oldest small-business advocacy organization. We operate on a bipartisan basis to represent the interests of all American small businesses. We have 65,000+ members in every state and every industry across the country, including our numerous state affiliates. More information about NSBA and our priorities can be found on our website at: www.nsba.biz.