

**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX-18)**

**STATEMENT BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**MEMBER DAY HEARING ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY2020  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019  
2362-B RAYBURN  
10:00 A.M.**

*Chairman Quigley, Ranking Member Graves and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:*

- As a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary Subcommittee and on Homeland Security, let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Graves for the difficult work and choices that must be made to produce a truly bipartisan Financial Services-General Government spending bill, and for their commitment to producing a bill that fairly reflects the interests and priorities of the American people.
- Mr. Chairman, I understand that my entire statement will be made part of the record, so I will keep my remarks brief.
- **In the few minutes allotted I wish to highlight the small business and general government programs which warrant the Committee's continuing attention and support.**

**I. SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS**

**I support \$131 million for the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)**

The SBA's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) support 940 locations nation-wide through a vast array of technical assistance to small businesses and

aspiring entrepreneur, with coordination with Microloan Technical Assistance to help business get started.

**I support \$20 million for Women's Business Centers (WBC) Grants**

The SBA's Women's Business Centers (WBC) is a national network of nearly 100 educational centers designed to assist women start and grow small businesses.

**I support \$10 million for the Boots for Business Program**

The SBA's Boots to Business, this initiative builds on the program's success and aims to reach an estimated 25,000 veterans across all military branches and train returning veterans on how to start their own business.

**I support robust funding for Small Business Export Trade Promotion**

The STEP program is a pilot program to increase the number of small businesses that are exporting, and to increase the value of exports for those small businesses that are currently exporting. More than 3,737 small businesses have already received assistance through the program. Many states have effectively leveraged program resources resulting in a return on investment for the majority of states of \$10 to \$1. In fact, six states had a return of investment of \$20 to \$1.

**II. GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**I support \$1.150 billion for Federal Defender Services**

The Federal Defender Services program ensures access to counsel and other necessary defense services for those who are indigent. Fully funding the Defender Services at the Judiciary request of \$1.06 billion will help to maintain public confidence in our commitment to equal justice under the law and ensures the

successful operation of the constitutionally-based adversary system of justice by which Federal criminal laws and federally guaranteed rights are enforced.

**I support \$20 million for the Community Volunteer Assistance Income Tax Assistance**

Requesting \$20 million for Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance matching grants. VITA is staffed by trained volunteers who provide free tax preparation services to underserved populations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The program helps improve working families' understanding of and access to federal tax credits, and increases tax compliance and e-filing rates.

**I support \$9.89 million for Tax Counseling for the Elderly**

Tax Counseling for the Elderly is staffed by trained volunteers who provide tax help to all taxpayers, but specialize in assisting those who are 60 years of age and older who may have questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

**I support \$22 Million for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative**

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative provides loan and grant financing to attract grocery stores and other fresh food retailers to underserved urban, suburban, and rural areas, and renovate and expand existing stores so they can provide the healthy foods that communities want and need.

**I support \$100 million for the Drug Free Communities Program**

The Drug Free Community Program is a proven and cost-effective way to prevent youth drug abuse. DFC-funded coalitions are community-based, data-driven, and require a dollar-for-dollar match. DFC-funded coalitions have reduced

marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco use to levels lower than the national average at statistically significant rates.

**I support \$1.9 million for Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation**

This request will help fund the Truman Scholarship Foundation, a living memorial to President Harry S. Truman. The Foundation Scholarship program encourages exceptional young men and women to pursue careers in public service. Celebrating its 41st anniversary, the program has seen over 3,000 Truman Scholars go on to serve in Presidential administrations, as Members of Congress, in federal agencies, as judges and law clerks, and as leaders in a variety of private and nonprofit organizations.

**CONCLUSION**

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the Ranking Member for your leadership and for extending me this opportunity to share my major priorities with the Subcommittee.