



**AEO** *Association for  
Enterprise Opportunity*  
THE VOICE OF MICROBUSINESS

April 13, 2017

The Honorable Stephanie Murphy  
1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Representative Murphy,

On behalf of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), I am writing in support of H.R. 2056, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program. AEO is the national member organization and voice of microbusiness. Our 450 members include microlenders, financial institutions, small business development organizations, women's business centers, non-profit lending organizations, advocates, and educational institutions dedicated to entrepreneurship.

For years, restrictions on both lending and counseling services have hampered the ability to help entrepreneurs. The bill, [H.R. 2056](#), would modernize the program in three key ways. First it removes the 25/75 requirement, which will give intermediaries more flexibility to design support services that address the specific needs of borrowers, and help get more borrowers loan ready. Second, the legislation allows for the increased use of contractors and increases flexibility to decide on the most effective way to use assistance funding. Lastly, the legislation seeks further program improvements by requiring reports from SBA and GAO on program participation, compliance, and performance.

The SBA Microloan program is a prime example of SBA-backed lending supporting American entrepreneurs. AEO supports H.R. 2056 because it will modernize a program and ensure more entrepreneurs can gain access to capital. Thank you for your support of the microbusiness community.

Sincerely,

Connie Evans, President and CEO  
The Association for Enterprise Opportunity