

June 25, 2025

RE: Strong Support for H.R. 2804 – Protecting Small Business Competitions Act of 2025

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce (USWCC), our leadership, and the thousands of women-owned small business suppliers we represent nationwide, we write to express our strong support for H.R. 2804, the Protecting Small Business Competitions Act of 2025.

This legislation takes the critical step of <u>codifying the "Rule of Two</u>," reinforcing the longstanding principle that federal opportunities must be set aside for small business competition when two or more responsible small businesses can perform the work at a fair market price. For women-owned businesses, who continue to face barriers in gaining fair access to federal contracts, this rule is a vital pathway to opportunity.

The success of this principle is clear: in fiscal year 2024 alone, **12,788 women-owned firms secured \$30.4 billion in federal contracts**. These are significant achievements for our members and a meaningful contribution to the nation's economy. However, any loss or erosion of the Rule of Two's enforcement would be devastating, jeopardizing the stability of these businesses, the livelihoods of their employees, and the significant economic impact they bring to the communities and Congressional Districts in which they operate, effectively reversing hard-won progress.

Codifying this rule is essential to protect these gains and ensure that equity in contracting is a permanent fixture of federal procurement, not a standard subject to fluctuating agency policy or interpretation. Since our founding in 2001, the USWCC has championed women's full participation in the federal supply chain and believes this bill strengthens a vital pathway to growth and equity.

We respectfully urge Congress to swiftly pass H.R. 2804 and reaffirm its commitment to small businesses—and to the economic advancement of women suppliers serving our nation.

Sincerely,

Margot Dorfman CEO and Co-Founder

U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce

www.uswcc.org