



August 27, 2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Small Business  
Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure  
2360 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re:** Statement in Support of SBA Programs

Dear Chair and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Elethia Singletary, and I am the Founder and CEO of Coleman-Anderson, LLC, a certified woman- and minority-owned management consulting firm headquartered in Hanover, Maryland. I write today to share my experience and express my strong support for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and its Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs).

My introduction to the SBDC began in 2017, years before I officially launched my firm. At the time, I worked for the U.S. House of Representatives in the Office of the Clerk. During that period, I attended a session with the SBDC at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where I met counselor Necola Shaw. That encounter was pivotal — Ms. Shaw introduced me to the SBA's mission of equipping and empowering aspiring entrepreneurs. It was my first real insight into how the SBDC supports small business owners, not only by providing resources but also by demystifying the process of starting and growing a business. This early exposure shaped my perspective and gave me the knowledge and confidence I needed when I founded Coleman-Anderson in 2019 and formally registered my business in Maryland in 2021.

In 2022, I began working with the Maryland SBDC in Anne Arundel County, under the guidance of Dr. Candace Pruett, who helped me lay the foundation for my company's operations. With her support, I navigated the process of becoming a certified government contractor, worked with the PTAC (now APEX Accelerator), established my operating agreement, and began strategically building a team. Her guidance was instrumental in helping me grow and scale during those critical early years.

When Dr. Pruett was promoted to Deputy Director for the Corridor Region, I transitioned to working with another excellent SBDC counselor, Antonio Nestor Gavidia, who is now helping Coleman-Anderson prepare for international expansion into Africa and the Caribbean.

I must also recognize the role of Ms. Lora Brown, Executive Director of the Maryland SBDC Network, whose leadership and dedication have been pivotal to my success and the success of many other entrepreneurs across the state. Ms. Brown not only ensured that I understood how the Maryland SBDC operates, but also helped me effectively navigate the process of connecting with the right counselor and accessing the resources that matched my business stage and goals. Her leadership has set the tone for an SBDC network that is accessible, effective, and deeply committed to the mission of empowering Maryland's small businesses.

The SBA and its SBDC network have been pivotal in my journey—from providing the initial spark of entrepreneurship to equipping me with the tools, certifications, and expertise necessary to compete in the federal marketplace and scale globally. These programs level the playing field for small, minority, and women-owned businesses like mine, which often face significant barriers in accessing opportunities.

I urge the Subcommittee to continue investing in and strengthening SBA programs, including the SBDCs, WOSB/EDWOSB contracting programs, and other federally funded small business programs like the APEX Accelerators. These initiatives are not handouts; they are high-return investments in America's small businesses that drive economic growth, create jobs, and ensure diverse representation in government contracting.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story and for your commitment to small businesses. I would be honored to serve as a resource or provide further testimony on how SBA programs have helped Coleman-Anderson succeed.

Respectfully,

*Elethia S. Singletary*



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