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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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November 17, 2017

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Madam Administrator:

I am writing to request information from the Small Business Administration (SBA) regarding efforts to implement recommendations identified as priorities by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Of 54 recommendations that are currently open, GAO prioritized recommendations related to entrepreneurial assistance programs.¹ GAO has found that dozens of “programs designed to support entrepreneurs” exist within numerous federal agencies, including SBA and the Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Commerce.

In 2012, GAO recommended that SBA should consistently collect information to track specific types of assistance programs and those they serve to help administer the programs, and to expand the use of program evaluations to better understand why underperforming programs have not met performance goals, and to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the programs.² In 2017, GAO found that SBA has taken some action in support of these recommendations, including hiring a lead program evaluator to manage and coordinate new and ongoing program evaluations, but that further action is needed. Specifically, GAO has found that a program evaluation framework developed by SBA in March 2017 has not been fully implemented.³

In order to better understand SBA’s efforts to implement GAO’s outstanding priority recommendations regarding entrepreneurial assistance programs, please provide a written response to the following questions no later than December 8, 2017:

¹ Letter from Comptroller General Eugene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office to the Administrator Linda McMahon, Small Business Administration (June 5, 2017).

² Government Accountability Office, *Entrepreneurial Assistance: Opportunities Exist to Improve Programs’ Collaboration, Data-Tracking, and Performance Management* (GAO-12-819) (Aug. 23, 2012).

³ Letter from Comptroller General Eugene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office to the Administrator Linda McMahon, Small Business Administration (June 5, 2017).

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1. How do SBA's entrepreneurial assistance programs differ from those of other agencies? Have these programs have been analyzed for duplication? If so, please provide the results of that analysis.
2. What data is the SBA collecting about the program in order to establish performance metrics?
3. What is the current status of SBA's implementation of GAO's open priority recommendations related to entrepreneurial assistance programs, and the time table for closure?
4. What is the status of the 2017 program evaluation framework, including the status of its implementation? If not fully implemented, why it has not been fully implemented? What is the timeline for full implementation?

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Garcia with my Committee staff at (202) 224-2627 or Sarah_Garcia@hsgac.senate.gov. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Lucy Balcezak at Lucy_Balcezak@hsgac.senate.gov. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman