

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 121

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 12, 2017

Mr. HELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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## A BILL

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Small Busi-  
5 ness Ownership Improvements Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PRO-**  
2 **GRAM; OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DE-**  
3 **VELOPMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business  
5 Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by striking subsections  
6 (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

7 “(d) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**—

8 “(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

10 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces,  
11 without regard to whether the member is  
12 participating in the Transition Assistance  
13 Program of the Department of Defense;

14 “(ii) an individual who is participating  
15 in the Transition Assistance Program of  
16 the Department of Defense;

17 “(iii) an individual who—

18 “(I) served on active duty in any  
19 branch of the Armed Forces, includ-  
20 ing the National Guard and Reserves;  
21 and

22 “(II) was discharged or released  
23 from such service under conditions  
24 other than dishonorable; and

1                   “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an in-  
2                   dividual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);  
3                   and

4                   “(B) the term ‘Vet Center’ means a center  
5                   for readjustment counseling and related mental  
6                   health services for veterans under section  
7                   1712A of title 38, United States Code.

8                   “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a  
9                   program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Pro-  
10                  gram’ to provide entrepreneurship training to cov-  
11                  ered individuals, which shall be carried out by the  
12                  Administrator.

13                  “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Busi-  
14                  ness Program are to—

15                         “(A) provide exposure, introduction, and  
16                         in-depth training for covered individuals inter-  
17                         ested in business ownership; and

18                         “(B) provide covered individuals with the  
19                         tools and knowledge necessary to identify a  
20                         business opportunity, draft a business plan,  
21                         identify sources of capital, connect with local  
22                         small business resources, and launch a small  
23                         business concern.

24                   “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Busi-  
2           ness Program may include—

3                   “(i) a brief presentation providing ex-  
4                   posure to the considerations involved in  
5                   self-employment and small business owner-  
6                   ship;

7                   “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-  
8                   cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-  
9                   ship, the language of business, and the  
10                  considerations involved in self-employment  
11                  and small business ownership;

12                  “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-  
13                  tion component providing an introduction  
14                  to the foundations of self employment and  
15                  small business ownership; and

16                  “(iv) in-depth training delivered  
17                  through online instruction, including an  
18                  online course that leads to the creation of  
19                  a business plan.

20           “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
21           trator may—

22                   “(i) collaborate with public and pri-  
23                   vate entities to develop a course curriculum  
24                   for the Boots to Business Program; and

1           “(ii) modify program components in  
2           coordination with entities participating in  
3           the Warriors in Transition programs, as  
4           defined in section 738(f) of the National  
5           Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
6           2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

7           “(C) UTILIZATION OF RESOURCE PART-  
8           NERS.—

9           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-  
10          ministrators shall—

11           “(I) ensure that veterans’ busi-  
12          ness outreach centers regularly partici-  
13          pate, on a nationwide basis, in the  
14          Boots to Business Program; and

15           “(II) to the maximum extent  
16          practicable, use a variety of other re-  
17          source partners and entities in admin-  
18          istering the Boots to Business Pro-  
19          gram.

20           “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying  
21          out clause (i), the Associate Administrator  
22          may make grants to veterans’ business  
23          outreach centers, other resource partners,  
24          and other entities to carry out components  
25          of the Boots to Business Program.

1           “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DOD.—The Admin-  
2           istrator shall—

3                   “(i) make available electronically in-  
4                   formation regarding the Boots to Business  
5                   Program and all course materials created  
6                   for the Boots to Business Program to the  
7                   Secretary of Defense for inclusion on the  
8                   website of the Department of Defense re-  
9                   lating to the Transition Assistance Pro-  
10                  gram and in the Transition Assistance  
11                  Program manual and other publications  
12                  and materials available for distribution  
13                  from the Secretary of Defense; and

14                   “(ii) fully participate in the inter-  
15                  agency governance of the Transition As-  
16                  sistance Program.

17           “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-  
18           FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of  
19           Veterans Affairs, the Associate Administrator  
20           shall make available outreach materials regard-  
21           ing the Boots to Business Program for distribu-  
22           tion and display at local facilities of the Depart-  
23           ment of Veterans Affairs (including medical  
24           centers, community-based outpatient clinics,  
25           Vet Centers, and other facilities determined ap-

1           appropriate by the Associate Administrator and  
2           the Secretary), which shall, at a minimum—

3                   “(i) describe the Boots to Business  
4                   Program, including a description of serv-  
5                   ices provided; and

6                   “(ii) include eligibility requirements  
7                   for participating in the Boots to Business  
8                   Program.

9           “(5) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the  
10           Administration shall submit to the Committee on  
11           Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate  
12           and the Committee on Small Business of the House  
13           of Representatives an annual report regarding the  
14           awarding of grants under the Boots to Business  
15           Program.

16           “(e) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING PRO-  
17           GRAM.—

18                   “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
19                   ‘covered individual’ means an individual who—

20                           “(A) is female; and

21                           “(B) is—

22                                   “(i) a member of the Armed Forces;

23                                   “(ii) a veteran; or

24                                   “(iii) the spouse or dependent of a  
25                                   member of the Armed Forces or a veteran.

1           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator  
2 shall establish a program, to be known as the  
3 Women Veterans Business Training Program, to  
4 provide specific training for covered individuals in-  
5 terested in exploring careers as owners of small busi-  
6 ness concerns.

7           “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Women Vet-  
8 erans Business Training Program are to—

9                   “(A) help covered individuals by providing  
10 the tools to become successful entrepreneurs;  
11 and

12                   “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,  
13 focus, and drive of covered individuals into a  
14 premier education training program taught by  
15 accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-  
16 ship educators from across the United States.

17           “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

18                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Women Veterans  
19 Business Training Program may include—

20                           “(i) an online, self-study course fo-  
21 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-  
22 ship and the language of business;

23                           “(ii) a conference where participants  
24 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs



1 and entrepreneurship educators from  
2 across the United States; and

3 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-  
4 port and mentorship.

5 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
6 trator may collaborate with public and private  
7 entities to develop a course curriculum for the  
8 Women Veterans Business Training Program.

9 “(5) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING.—  
10 The Associate Administrator shall—

11 “(A) compile information on resources  
12 available to women veterans for business train-  
13 ing, including resources for—

14 “(i) vocational and technical edu-  
15 cation;

16 “(ii) general business skills, such as  
17 marketing and accounting; and

18 “(iii) business assistance programs  
19 targeted to women veterans;

20 “(B) disseminate the information compiled  
21 under subparagraph (A) through veterans’ busi-  
22 ness outreach centers and women’s business  
23 centers; and

24 “(C) in consultation with the Secretary of  
25 Veterans Affairs, make available outreach mate-

1           rials regarding the Women Veterans Business  
2           Training Program for distribution and display  
3           at local facilities of the Department of Veterans  
4           Affairs (including medical centers, community-  
5           based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-  
6           fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities  
7           determined appropriate by the Associate Ad-  
8           ministrators and the Secretary), which shall, at  
9           a minimum—

10                   “(i) describe the Women Veterans  
11                   Business Training Program, including a  
12                   description of services provided; and

13                   “(ii) include eligibility requirements  
14                   for participating in the Women Veterans  
15                   Business Training Program.

16           “(6) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Ad-  
17           ministrators may make grants to veterans’ business  
18           outreach centers, women’s business centers, and  
19           other entities, including other resource partners, to  
20           carry out components of the Women Veterans Busi-  
21           ness Training Program.

22           “(f) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE  
23           DISABLED VETERANS.—

24                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-  
25                   tablish a Business Training Program for Service

1 Disabled Veterans to provide specific training for  
2 service-disabled veterans interested in exploring ca-  
3 reers as owners of small business concerns.

4 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Business Train-  
5 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans are to—

6 “(A) help service-disabled veterans by pro-  
7 viding the tools to become successful entre-  
8 preneurs; and

9 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,  
10 focus, and drive of service-disabled veterans  
11 into a premier education training program  
12 taught by accomplished entrepreneurs and en-  
13 trepreneurship educators from across the  
14 United States.

15 “(3) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Business Train-  
17 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans may  
18 include—

19 “(i) an online, self-study course fo-  
20 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-  
21 ship and the language of business;

22 “(ii) a conference where participants  
23 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs  
24 and entrepreneurship educators from  
25 across the United States; and

1                   “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-  
2                   port and mentorship.

3                   “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
4                   trator may collaborate with public and private  
5                   entities to develop a course curriculum for the  
6                   Business Training Program for Service Dis-  
7                   abled Veterans.

8                   “(4) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In  
9                   consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
10                  the Associate Administrator shall make available  
11                  outreach materials regarding the Business Training  
12                  Program for Service Disabled Veterans for distribu-  
13                  tion and display at local facilities of the Department  
14                  of Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, com-  
15                  munity-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-  
16                  fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities deter-  
17                  mined appropriate by the Associate Administrator  
18                  and the Secretary), which shall, at a minimum—

19                         “(A) describe the Business Training Pro-  
20                         gram for Service Disabled Veterans, including a  
21                         description of services provided; and

22                         “(B) include eligibility requirements for  
23                         participating in the Business Training Program  
24                         for Service Disabled Veterans.

1           “(5) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Ad-  
2           ministrators may make grants to veterans’ business  
3           outreach centers and other entities, including other  
4           resource partners, to carry out components of the  
5           Business Training Program for Service Disabled  
6           Veterans.

7           “(g) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER  
8 PROGRAM.—

9           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

10           “(A) the term ‘active duty’ has the mean-  
11           ing given that term in section 101 of title 10,  
12           United States Code;

13           “(B) the term ‘Reservist’ means a member  
14           of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as  
15           described in section 10101 of title 10, United  
16           States Code;

17           “(C) the term ‘small business concern  
18           owned and controlled by veterans’—

19           “(i) has the meaning given that term  
20           in section 3(q); and

21           “(ii) includes a small business con-  
22           cern—

23           “(I) not less than 51 percent of  
24           which is owned by 1 or more spouses  
25           of veterans or, in the case of any pub-

1                   licly owned business, not less than 51  
2                   percent of the stock of which is owned  
3                   by 1 or more spouses of veterans; and

4                   “(II) the management and daily  
5                   business operations of which are con-  
6                   trolled by 1 or more spouses of vet-  
7                   erans;

8                   “(D) the term ‘spouse’, relating to a mem-  
9                   ber of the Armed Forces on active duty, vet-  
10                  eran, service-disabled veteran, or Reservist, in-  
11                  cludes an individual who, on the date on which  
12                  the member of the Armed Forces on active  
13                  duty, veteran, service-disabled veteran, or Re-  
14                  servist died, is the spouse of the member of the  
15                  Armed Forces on active duty, veteran, service-  
16                  disabled veteran, or Reservist; and

17                  “(E) the term ‘veterans’ business outreach  
18                  center program’ means the program established  
19                  under paragraph (2)(A).

20                  “(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

21                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,  
22                  acting through the Associate Administrator,  
23                  shall establish a veterans’ business outreach  
24                  center program, under which the Associate Ad-  
25                  ministrators may provide financial assistance to

1 educational institutions, veterans' nonprofit  
2 community-based organizations, and Federal,  
3 State, and local departments and agencies to  
4 conduct a 5-year project for the benefit of small  
5 business concerns owned and controlled by vet-  
6 erans, which, upon application by the entity re-  
7 ceiving financial assistance, may be renewed for  
8 1 or more additional 5-year periods.

9 “(B) FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

10 Financial assistance under this subsection may  
11 be in the form of a grant, a contract, or a coop-  
12 erative agreement.

13 “(3) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CEN-

14 TERS.—Each entity that receives financial assistance  
15 under this subsection shall establish or operate a  
16 veterans’ business outreach center (which may in-  
17 clude establishing or operating satellite offices in the  
18 region described in paragraph (5) served by that en-  
19 tity) that provides to veterans (including service-dis-  
20 abled veterans), Reservists, and the spouses of mem-  
21 bers of the Armed Forces on active duty, veterans  
22 (including service-disabled veterans), and Reserv-  
23 ists—

24 “(A) financial advice, including training  
25 and counseling on applying for and securing

1 business credit and investment capital, pre-  
2 paring and presenting financial statements, and  
3 managing cash flow and other financial oper-  
4 ations of a small business concern;

5 “(B) management advice, including train-  
6 ing and counseling on the planning, organiza-  
7 tion, staffing, direction, and control of each  
8 major activity and function of a small business  
9 concern;

10 “(C) technical assistance, training, and  
11 counseling to assist in identifying and obtaining  
12 Federal procurement opportunities;

13 “(D) marketing advice, including training  
14 and counseling on identifying and segmenting  
15 domestic and international market opportuni-  
16 ties, preparing and executing marketing plans,  
17 developing pricing strategies, locating contract  
18 opportunities, negotiating contracts, and using  
19 public relations and advertising techniques; and

20 “(E) other advice, including training and  
21 counseling.

22 “(4) APPLICATION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring to  
24 receive financial assistance under this sub-  
25 section shall submit an application to the Asso-



1           ciate Administrator at such time and in such  
2           manner as the Associate Administrator may re-  
3           quire.

4           “(B) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Each application de-  
5           scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include a 5-  
6           year plan on proposed fundraising and training  
7           activities relating to the veterans’ business out-  
8           reach center.

9           “(C) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICA-  
10          TION.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
11          on which applications for a fiscal year are re-  
12          quired to be submitted under subparagraph (A),  
13          the Associate Administrator shall approve or  
14          deny any application submitted and notify the  
15          applicant of the determination.

16          “(D) AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION.—  
17          The Associate Administrator shall make every  
18          effort to make the application under subpara-  
19          graph (A) available online.

20          “(5) ELIGIBILITY.—The Associate Adminis-  
21          trator may select to receive financial assistance  
22          under this subsection—

23                  “(A) a Veterans’ Business Outreach Cen-  
24                  ter established by the Administrator under sec-

1           tion 8(b)(17) on or before the day before the  
2           date of enactment of this subsection; or

3           “(B) educational institutions, veterans’  
4           nonprofit community-based organizations, and  
5           Federal, State, and local departments and  
6           agencies located in various regions of the  
7           United States, as the Associate Administrator  
8           determines is appropriate.

9           “(6) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

10           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Admin-  
11           istrator shall establish selection criteria, stated  
12           in terms of relative importance, to evaluate and  
13           rank applicants under paragraph (5)(B) for fi-  
14           nancial assistance under this subsection.

15           “(B) CRITERIA.—The selection criteria es-  
16           tablished under this paragraph shall include—

17           “(i) the experience of the applicant in  
18           conducting programs or ongoing efforts de-  
19           signed to impart or upgrade the business  
20           skills of veterans (including service-dis-  
21           abled veterans), Reservists, and the  
22           spouses of members of the Armed Forces  
23           on active duty, veterans (including service-  
24           disabled veterans), and Reservists who own  
25           or may own small business concerns;

1           “(ii) for an applicant for initial finan-  
2           cial assistance under this subsection—

3                   “(I) the ability of the applicant  
4                   to begin operating a veterans’ busi-  
5                   ness outreach center within a min-  
6                   imum amount of time; and

7                   “(II) the geographic region to be  
8                   served by the veterans’ business out-  
9                   reach center;

10           “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the  
11           applicant to—

12                   “(I) provide managerial coun-  
13                   seling and technical assistance to en-  
14                   trepreneurs; and

15                   “(II) coordinate services provided  
16                   by veterans service organizations and  
17                   other public or private entities;

18           “(iv) the demonstrated ability to le-  
19           verage and coordinate with existing re-  
20           sources and infrastructure of the Adminis-  
21           tration; and

22           “(v) for any applicant for a renewal of  
23           financial assistance under this subsection,  
24           the results of the most recent examination  
25           under paragraph (11) of the veterans’

1 business outreach center operated by the  
2 applicant.

3 “(C) CRITERIA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—

4 The Associate Administrator shall—

5 “(i) make publicly available the selec-  
6 tion criteria established under this para-  
7 graph;

8 “(ii) include the criteria in each solici-  
9 tation for applications for financial assist-  
10 ance under this subsection;

11 “(iii) make every effort to ensure re-  
12 gional accessibility and geographic rep-  
13 resentation in awarding financial assist-  
14 ance under this subsection; and

15 “(iv) to the extent practicable, make  
16 publicly available the approximate antici-  
17 pated date for the determination of award  
18 recipients by the Administration and the  
19 anticipated timing of disbursement.

20 “(7) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of  
21 financial assistance provided under this subsection  
22 to an entity for each fiscal year shall be not less  
23 than \$100,000.

24 “(8) FEDERAL SHARE.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

1           “(i) INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSIST-  
2 ANCE.—Except as provided in clause (ii)  
3 and subparagraph (E), an entity that re-  
4 ceives financial assistance under this sub-  
5 section shall provide non-Federal contribu-  
6 tions for the operation of the veterans’  
7 business outreach center established by the  
8 entity in an amount equal to—

9           “(I) in each of the first and sec-  
10 ond years of the project, not less than  
11 33 percent of the amount of the fi-  
12 nancial assistance received under this  
13 subsection; and

14           “(II) in each of the third through  
15 fifth years of the project, not less  
16 than 50 percent of the amount of the  
17 financial assistance received under  
18 this subsection.

19           “(ii) RENEWALS.—An entity that re-  
20 ceives a renewal of financial assistance  
21 under this subsection shall provide non-  
22 Federal contributions for the operation of  
23 the veterans’ business outreach center es-  
24 tablished by the entity in an amount equal  
25 to not less than 50 percent of the amount

1 of the financial assistance received under  
2 this subsection.

3 “(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—  
4 Not more than 50 percent of the non-Federal  
5 share for a project carried out using financial  
6 assistance under this subsection may be in the  
7 form of in-kind contributions.

8 “(C) TIMING OF DISBURSEMENT.—The  
9 Associate Administrator may disburse not more  
10 than 25 percent of the financial assistance  
11 awarded to an entity before the entity obtains  
12 the non-Federal share required under this para-  
13 graph with respect to that award.

14 “(D) FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL  
15 FUNDING.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an entity that  
17 receives financial assistance under this  
18 subsection fails to obtain the non-Federal  
19 share required under this paragraph dur-  
20 ing 2 consecutive fiscal years, the entity  
21 may not receive a disbursement under this  
22 subsection in a subsequent fiscal year or a  
23 disbursement for any other project funded  
24 by the Administration, unless the Adminis-  
25 trator makes a written determination that

1 the entity will be able to obtain a non-Fed-  
2 eral contribution.

3 “(ii) RESTORATION.—An entity pro-  
4 hibited from receiving a disbursement  
5 under clause (i) in a fiscal year may re-  
6 ceive financial assistance in a subsequent  
7 fiscal year if the entity obtains the non-  
8 Federal share required under this para-  
9 graph for the subsequent fiscal year.

10 “(E) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE  
11 FOR INITIAL RECIPIENTS.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by  
13 an entity, and in accordance with this sub-  
14 paragraph, the Administrator may waive,  
15 in whole or in part, the requirement to ob-  
16 tain non-Federal funds under subpara-  
17 graph (A)(i) for a fiscal year. The Admin-  
18 istrator may not waive the requirement for  
19 an entity to obtain non-Federal funds  
20 under this subparagraph for more than a  
21 total of 2 fiscal years.

22 “(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-  
23 mining whether to waive the requirement  
24 to obtain non-Federal funds under this

1           subparagraph, the Administrator shall con-  
2           sider—

3                   “(I) the economic conditions af-  
4                   fecting the entity;

5                   “(II) the impact a waiver under  
6                   this subparagraph would have on the  
7                   credibility of the veterans’ business  
8                   outreach center program;

9                   “(III) the demonstrated ability of  
10                  the entity to raise non-Federal funds;  
11                  and

12                  “(IV) the performance of the en-  
13                  tity.

14                  “(iii) LIMITATION.—The Adminis-  
15                  trator may not waive the requirement to  
16                  obtain non-Federal funds under this sub-  
17                  paragraph if granting the waiver would un-  
18                  dermine the credibility of the veterans’  
19                  business outreach center program.

20                  “(9) AFFILIATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS DE-  
21                  VELOPMENT CENTERS.—

22                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity receiving fi-  
23                   nancial assistance under this subsection shall  
24                   enter into an agreement to affiliate with a small  
25                   business development center for purposes of



1 carrying out the activities of the entity using  
2 the financial assistance.

3 “(B) CONSISTENCY WITH AGREEMENT.—

4 The terms of an agreement to affiliate under  
5 subparagraph (A) shall be in accordance with  
6 the terms of any agreement between the appli-  
7 cable small business development center and the  
8 Administration.

9 “(10) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—A veterans’  
10 business outreach center may enter into a contract  
11 with a Federal department or agency to provide spe-  
12 cific assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans,  
13 Reservists, or the spouses of members of the Armed  
14 Forces on active duty, veterans, service-disabled vet-  
15 erans, or Reservists with prior written approval of  
16 the Associate Administrator. Performance of such  
17 contract shall not hinder the veterans’ business out-  
18 reach center in carrying out the terms of the grant  
19 received by the veterans’ business outreach center  
20 from the Administrator.

21 “(11) EXAMINATION AND DETERMINATION OF  
22 PERFORMANCE.—

23 “(A) EXAMINATION.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than  
25 180 days after the date of enactment of

1           this subsection and every year thereafter,  
2           the Associate Administrator shall conduct  
3           an annual examination of the programs  
4           and finances of each veterans' business  
5           outreach center established or operated  
6           using financial assistance under this sub-  
7           section.

8           “(ii) FACTORS.—In conducting the ex-  
9           amination under clause (i), the Associate  
10          Administrator shall consider whether the  
11          veterans' business outreach center has  
12          failed—

13                 “(I) to provide the information  
14                 required to be provided under sub-  
15                 paragraph (B), or the information  
16                 provided by the center is inadequate;

17                 “(II) to comply with a require-  
18                 ment for participation in the veterans'  
19                 business outreach center program, as  
20                 determined by the Associate Adminis-  
21                 trator, including—

22                         “(aa) failure to acquire or  
23                         properly document a non-Federal  
24                         share;

1           “(bb) failure to establish an  
2           appropriate partnership or pro-  
3           gram for marketing and outreach  
4           to small business concerns;

5           “(cc) failure to achieve re-  
6           sults described in a financial as-  
7           sistance agreement; and

8           “(dd) failure to provide to  
9           the Administrator a description  
10          of the amount and sources of any  
11          non-Federal funding received by  
12          the center;

13          “(III) to carry out the 5-year  
14          plan described in paragraph (4)(B);

15          “(IV) to meet the eligibility re-  
16          quirements under paragraph (5); or

17          “(V) to serve small business con-  
18          cerns in the geographic region served  
19          by the veterans’ business outreach  
20          center.

21               “(B) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—In the  
22          course of an examination under subparagraph  
23          (A), the veterans’ business outreach center shall  
24          provide to the Associate Administrator—

1           “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-  
2           tual expenditures for costs incurred during  
3           the most recent full fiscal year, including  
4           the amount spent on administrative ex-  
5           penses;

6           “(ii) documentation of the amount of  
7           non-Federal contributions obtained and ex-  
8           pended by the veterans’ business outreach  
9           center during the most recent full fiscal  
10          year;

11          “(iii) with respect to any in-kind con-  
12          tribution under paragraph (8)(B),  
13          verification of the existence and valuation  
14          of such contribution; and

15          “(iv) any additional information the  
16          Associate Administrator determines nec-  
17          essary.

18          “(C) DETERMINATION OF PERFORM-  
19          ANCE.—

20                 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-  
21                 ministrators shall analyze the results of  
22                 each examination under subparagraph (A)  
23                 and, based on that analysis, make a deter-  
24                 mination regarding the performance of the

1 programs and finances of each veterans'  
2 business outreach center.

3 “(ii) NONDELEGATION OF DETER-  
4 MINATION.—The duty under clause (i) to  
5 make a determination regarding the per-  
6 formance of the programs and finances of  
7 a veterans’ business outreach center may  
8 not be delegated.

9 “(D) DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-  
11 ministrator may discontinue an award of  
12 financial assistance to an entity at any  
13 time for poor performance as determined  
14 under subparagraph (C).

15 “(ii) RESTORATION.—The Associate  
16 Administrator may continue to provide fi-  
17 nancial assistance to an entity in a subse-  
18 quent fiscal year if the Associate Adminis-  
19 trator determines under subparagraph (C)  
20 that the veterans’ business outreach center  
21 has taken appropriate measures to improve  
22 its performance and it is viable.

23 “(12) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND CON-  
24 SULTATION.—

1           “(A) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-  
2           TION.—To the extent practicable, the Associate  
3           Administrator and each entity that receives fi-  
4           nancial assistance under this subsection shall—

5                   “(i) coordinate outreach and other ac-  
6                   tivities with other programs of the Admin-  
7                   istration and the programs of other Fed-  
8                   eral agencies, including programs at local  
9                   facilities of the Department of Veterans  
10                  Affairs;

11                  “(ii) consult with technical representa-  
12                  tives of the district offices of the Adminis-  
13                  tration in carrying out activities using fi-  
14                  nancial assistance under this subsection;  
15                  and

16                  “(iii) provide information to the vet-  
17                  erans business development officers des-  
18                  ignated under subparagraph (B) and co-  
19                  ordinate with the veterans business devel-  
20                  opment officers to increase the ability of  
21                  the veterans business development officers  
22                  to provide services throughout the area  
23                  served by the veterans business develop-  
24                  ment officers.

1                   “(B) VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
2 OFFICERS.—

3                   “(i) DESIGNATION.—The Adminis-  
4 trator shall designate not fewer than 1 in-  
5 dividual in each district office of the Ad-  
6 ministration as a veterans business devel-  
7 opment officer, who shall communicate and  
8 coordinate activities of the district office  
9 with entities that receive financial assist-  
10 ance under this subsection.

11                   “(ii) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—The  
12 first individual in each district office of the  
13 Administration designated by the Adminis-  
14 trator as a veterans business development  
15 officer under clause (i) shall be an indi-  
16 vidual that is employed by the Administra-  
17 tion on the date of enactment of this sub-  
18 section.

19                   “(13) EXISTING CONTRACTS.—An award of fi-  
20 nancial assistance under this subsection shall not  
21 void any contract or cooperative agreement between  
22 any entity and the Administration or grant to any  
23 entity from the Administration that is in effect on  
24 the date of such award.

1       “(h) VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE  
2 PILOT PROGRAM.—

3               “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

4                       “(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

5                               “(i) a member of the Armed Forces  
6 on active duty, as defined in section  
7 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code;

8                               “(ii) a member of the Armed Forces  
9 who is participating in the Transition As-  
10 sistance Program of the Department of  
11 Defense;

12                               “(iii) a member of a reserve compo-  
13 nent of the Armed Forces named in section  
14 10101 of title 10, United States Code;

15                               “(iv) a veteran; and

16                               “(v) a spouse or dependent of an indi-  
17 vidual described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or  
18 (iv);

19                       “(B) the term ‘institution of higher edu-  
20 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
21 tion 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
22 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

23                       “(C) the term ‘pilot program’ means the  
24 Veterans Business Owners Initiative Pilot Pro-  
25 gram established under paragraph (2).



1           “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days  
2 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
3 Administrator shall establish a pilot program, to be  
4 known as the Veterans Business Owners Initiative  
5 Pilot Program, to provide grants to nonprofit enti-  
6 ties to carry out peer support groups that provide  
7 training to covered individuals interested in explor-  
8 ing careers as owners of small business concerns.

9           “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the pilot program  
10 are—

11                   “(A) to facilitate training for covered indi-  
12 viduals, staff, and mentors to develop the as-  
13 sistance to be provided through peer support  
14 groups under the pilot program, including edu-  
15 cation, coaching, peer support, business men-  
16 toring, and benefits counseling; and

17                   “(B) to arrange for external assistance, in-  
18 cluding micro-financing, for covered individuals.

19           “(4) APPLICATION.—A nonprofit entity that de-  
20 sires a grant under the pilot program shall submit  
21 to the Administrator an application at such time, in  
22 such manner, and containing such information as  
23 the Administrator may require.

1           “(5) PILOT PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—Activities  
2 carried out through a peer support group under the  
3 pilot program may include—

4           “(A) providing assistance to covered indi-  
5 viduals to identify their passions and skill sets  
6 with respect to business, including coaching and  
7 mentorship for covered individuals who suffer  
8 from the consequences of being at war;

9           “(B) providing exposure to covered individ-  
10 uals to the considerations involved in self-em-  
11 ployment and small business ownership;

12           “(C) an instruction component that pro-  
13 vides an introduction to the foundations of self-  
14 employment and small business ownership; and

15           “(D) in-depth training that leads to the  
16 creation of a business plan.

17           “(6) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator  
18 may—

19           “(A) collaborate with public and private  
20 entities to develop a course initiative for peer  
21 support groups carried out under the pilot pro-  
22 gram; and

23           “(B) design the course curriculum to allow  
24 covered individuals to receive college credit or a  
25 certificate through an institution of higher edu-

1 cation upon completion of all components of the  
2 curriculum.

3 “(i) ONLINE COORDINATION.—

4 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
5 ‘veterans’ assistance provider’ means—

6 “(A) a veterans’ business outreach center  
7 established under subsection (g);

8 “(B) an employee of the Administration  
9 assigned to the Office of Veterans Business De-  
10 velopment; or

11 “(C) a veterans business development offi-  
12 cer designated under subsection (g)(12)(B).

13 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Associate Admin-  
14 istrator shall establish an online mechanism to—

15 “(A) provide information that assists vet-  
16 erans’ assistance providers in carrying out the  
17 activities of the veterans’ assistance providers;  
18 and

19 “(B) coordinate and leverage the work of  
20 the veterans’ assistance providers, including by  
21 allowing a veterans’ assistance provider to—

22 “(i) distribute best practices and  
23 other materials;

24 “(ii) communicate with other vet-  
25 erans’ assistance providers regarding the

1 activities of the veterans' assistance pro-  
2 vider on behalf of veterans; and

3 “(iii) pose questions to and request  
4 input from other veterans' assistance pro-  
5 viders.

6 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
7 is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years  
8 2017 through 2021—

9 “(1) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (g);

10 “(2) \$8,000,000 to carry out subsections (d),  
11 (e), and (f); and

12 “(3) such sums as may be necessary to carry  
13 out subsection (h).

14 “(k) LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR OVERSEAS TRAV-  
15 EL.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Financial assistance made  
17 available under this section may not be used for  
18 travel outside of the United States (as defined in  
19 section 202(a)(7) of the State Department Basic  
20 Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4302(a)(7)))  
21 until after the date on which the Administrator sub-  
22 mits to the Committee on Small Business and En-  
23 trepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on  
24 Small Business of the House of Representatives a  
25 plan describing how services will provided by recipi-

1       ents, and how the Administrator will oversee the  
2       provision of services, outside of the United States.

3           “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—After the date de-  
4       scribed in paragraph (1), a recipient of financial as-  
5       sistance made available under this section may use  
6       not more than 5 percent of the amount of the finan-  
7       cial assistance for travel outside of the United  
8       States.

9           “(1) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the  
10      date of enactment of this subsection and every year there-  
11      after, the Associate Administrator shall submit to the  
12      Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of  
13      the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the  
14      House of Representatives a report on the performance and  
15      effectiveness for the programs authorized under this sec-  
16      tion, which may be included as part of another report sub-  
17      mitted to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-  
18      neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Busi-  
19      ness of the House of Representatives by the Associate Ad-  
20      ministrator, and which shall include the following:

21           “(1) BOOTS TO BUSINESS.—For the Boots to  
22      Business Program under subsection (d)—

23           “(A) the number of program participants  
24           using each component of the Boots to Business  
25           Program;

1           “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
2           nent of the Boots to Business Program;

3           “(C) to the extent possible—

4                 “(i) the demographics of program par-  
5                 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
6                 tionship to military, Military Occupational  
7                 Code, and years of service of program par-  
8                 ticipants;

9                 “(ii) the number of small business  
10                concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
11                ance under the Boots to Business Pro-  
12                gram;

13                “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
14                ness concerns receiving assistance under  
15                the Boots to Business Program;

16                “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
17                assistance under the Boots to Business  
18                Program;

19                “(v) the number of referrals to other  
20                resources and programs of the Administra-  
21                tion;

22                “(vi) the number of program partici-  
23                pants receiving financial assistance under  
24                loan programs of the Administration;

1                   “(vii) the type and dollar amount of  
2                   financial assistance received by program  
3                   participants under loan programs of the  
4                   Administration; and

5                   “(viii) results of participant satisfac-  
6                   tion surveys, including a summary of any  
7                   comments received from program partici-  
8                   pants;

9                   “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
10                  the Boots to Business Program in each region  
11                  of the Administration during the most recent  
12                  fiscal year;

13                  “(E) an assessment of additional perform-  
14                  ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-  
15                  ness Program, as identified by the Associate  
16                  Administrator;

17                  “(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
18                  trator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-  
19                  ness Program, which may include expansion of  
20                  the types of individuals who are covered individ-  
21                  uals;

22                  “(G) an explanation of how the Boots to  
23                  Business Program has been integrated with  
24                  other transition programs and related resources

1 of the Administration and other Federal agen-  
2 cies; and

3 “(H) any additional information the Ad-  
4 ministrator determines necessary.

5 “(2) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING  
6 PROGRAM.—For the Women Veterans Business  
7 Training Program under subsection (e)—

8 “(A) the number of program participants  
9 using each component of the Women Veterans  
10 Business Training Program;

11 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
12 nent of the Women Veterans Business Training  
13 Program;

14 “(C) to the extent possible—

15 “(i) the demographics of program par-  
16 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
17 tionship to military, and years of service;

18 “(ii) the number of small business  
19 concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
20 ance under the Women Veterans Business  
21 Training Program;

22 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
23 ness concerns receiving assistance under  
24 the Women Veterans Business Training  
25 Program;



1           “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
2 assistance under the Women Veterans  
3 Business Training Program;

4           “(v) the number of referrals to other  
5 resources and programs of the Administra-  
6 tion;

7           “(vi) the number of referrals from  
8 other resources and programs of the Ad-  
9 ministration and other Federal agencies;

10          “(vii) the number of program partici-  
11 pants receiving financial assistance under  
12 loan programs of the Administration;

13          “(viii) the type and dollar amount of  
14 financial assistance received by program  
15 participants under loan programs of the  
16 Administration; and

17          “(ix) the results of participant satis-  
18 faction surveys, including a summary of  
19 any comments received from program par-  
20 ticipants;

21          “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
22 ance outcome measures for the Women Vet-  
23 erans Business Training Program, as identified  
24 by the Associate Administrator;

1           “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
2           trator for improvement of the Women Veterans  
3           Business Training Program;

4           “(F) an explanation of how the Women  
5           Veterans Business Training Program has been  
6           integrated with other transition programs and  
7           related resources of the Administration and  
8           other Federal agencies; and

9           “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
10          ministrators determines necessary.

11          “(3) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERV-  
12          ICE DISABLED VETERANS.—For the Business Train-  
13          ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans under  
14          subsection (f)—

15                 “(A) the number of program participants  
16                 using each component of the Business Training  
17                 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

18                 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
19                 nent of the Business Training Program for  
20                 Service Disabled Veterans;

21                 “(C) to the extent possible—

22                         “(i) the demographics of program par-  
23                         ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
24                         tionship to military, and years of service;

1           “(ii) the number of small business  
2 concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
3 ance under the Business Training Program  
4 for Service Disabled Veterans;

5           “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
6 ness concerns receiving assistance under  
7 the Business Training Program for Service  
8 Disabled Veterans;

9           “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
10 assistance under the Business Training  
11 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

12           “(v) the number of referrals to other  
13 resources and programs of the Administra-  
14 tion;

15           “(vi) the number of referrals from  
16 other resources and programs of the Ad-  
17 ministration and other Federal agencies;

18           “(vii) the number of program partici-  
19 pants receiving financial assistance under  
20 loan programs of the Administration;

21           “(viii) the type and dollar amount of  
22 financial assistance received by program  
23 participants under loan programs of the  
24 Administration; and

1           “(ix) the results of participant satis-  
2           faction surveys, including a summary of  
3           any comments received from program par-  
4           ticipants;

5           “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
6           ance outcome measures for the Business Train-  
7           ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans, as  
8           identified by the Associate Administrator;

9           “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
10          trator for improvement of the Business Train-  
11          ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

12          “(F) an explanation of how the Business  
13          Training Program for Service Disabled Vet-  
14          erans has been integrated with other transition  
15          programs and related resources of the Adminis-  
16          tration and other Federal agencies; and

17          “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
18          ministrator determines necessary.

19          “(4) VETERAN’S BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER  
20          PROGRAM.—For the veterans’ business outreach cen-  
21          ter program under subsection (g)—

22                 “(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
23                 the veterans’ business outreach center program  
24                 in each region of the Administration during the  
25                 most recent full fiscal year;

1           “(B) for each veterans’ business outreach  
2 center established or operated using financial  
3 assistance provided under subsection (g)—

4           “(i) the number of individuals receiv-  
5 ing assistance from the veterans’ business  
6 outreach center, including the number of  
7 such individuals who are—

8           “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-  
9 erans;

10           “(II) service-disabled veterans or  
11 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

12           “(III) Reservists (as defined in  
13 subsection (g)) or spouses of Reserv-  
14 ists; or

15           “(IV) spouses of members of the  
16 Armed Forces on active duty;

17           “(ii) the average distance traveled by  
18 veterans to access services at the veterans’  
19 business outreach center;

20           “(iii) the number of small business  
21 concerns formed by individuals receiving  
22 assistance from the veterans’ business out-  
23 reach center, including—

24           “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-  
25 erans;

1 “(II) service-disabled veterans or  
2 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

3 “(III) Reservists or spouses of  
4 Reservists; or

5 “(IV) spouses of members of the  
6 Armed Forces on active duty; and

7 “(iv) to the extent possible—

8 “(I) the gross receipts of small  
9 business concerns receiving assistance  
10 from the veterans’ business outreach  
11 center;

12 “(II) the employment increases  
13 or decreases of small business con-  
14 cerns receiving assistance from the  
15 veterans’ business outreach center;

16 “(III) the increases or decreases  
17 in profits of small business concerns  
18 receiving assistance from the veterans’  
19 business outreach center;

20 “(IV) the number of referrals by  
21 the veterans’ business outreach center  
22 to other resources and programs of  
23 the Administration;

24 “(V) the results of satisfaction  
25 surveys, including a summary of any

1           comments received from small busi-  
2           ness concerns receiving assistance  
3           from the veterans' business outreach  
4           center;

5           “(VI) the number of small busi-  
6           ness concerns receiving assistance  
7           from the veterans' business outreach  
8           center that received financial assist-  
9           ance under loan programs of the Ad-  
10          ministration;

11          “(VII) the type and dollar  
12          amount of financial assistance re-  
13          ceived under loan programs of the Ad-  
14          ministration by small business con-  
15          cerns receiving assistance from the  
16          veterans' business outreach center;

17          “(VIII) the number of small  
18          business concerns receiving assistance  
19          from the veterans' business outreach  
20          center that obtained a Federal con-  
21          tract through a small business con-  
22          tracting program;

23          “(IX) the type and dollar amount  
24          of the Federal contracts awarded to  
25          small business concerns receiving as-

1                   sistance from the veterans’ business  
2                   outreach center;

3                   “(X) an assessment of additional  
4                   performance outcome measures for  
5                   the veterans’ business outreach cen-  
6                   ter, as identified by the Associate Ad-  
7                   ministrators; and

8                   “(XI) the results of the examina-  
9                   tion of the veterans’ business outreach  
10                  center under subsection (g)(10);

11                  “(C) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
12                  trator for improvement of the veterans’ busi-  
13                  ness outreach center program;

14                  “(D) an explanation of how the veterans’  
15                  business outreach center program has been in-  
16                  tegrated with other transition programs and re-  
17                  lated resources of the Administration and other  
18                  Federal agencies; and

19                  “(E) any additional information the Ad-  
20                  ministrator determines necessary.

21                  “(5) OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AD-  
22                  MINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSI-  
23                  NESS DEVELOPMENT.—An evaluation of the effec-  
24                  tiveness of any other activities and programs admin-  
25                  istered by the Office of Veterans Business Develop-



1       ment, including using the metrics identified in para-  
2       graphs (1) through (4).

3               “(6) VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE  
4       PILOT PROGRAM.—For the Veterans Business Own-  
5       ers Initiative Pilot Program under subsection (h)—

6               “(A) the number of program participants  
7       using each component of the Veterans Business  
8       Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

9               “(B) the completion rates for each compo-  
10       nent of the Veterans Business Owners Initiative  
11       Pilot Program;

12              “(C) to the extent possible—

13              “(i) the demographics of program par-  
14       ticipants, including gender, age, race, rela-  
15       tionship to military, and years of service;

16              “(ii) the number of small business  
17       concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
18       ance under the Veterans Business Owners  
19       Initiative Pilot Program;

20              “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
21       ness concerns receiving assistance under  
22       the Veterans Business Owners Initiative  
23       Pilot Program;

1           “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
2 assistance under the Veterans Business  
3 Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

4           “(v) the number of referrals to other  
5 resources and programs of the Administra-  
6 tion;

7           “(vi) the number of referrals from  
8 other resources and programs of the Ad-  
9 ministration and other Federal agencies;

10          “(vii) the number of program partici-  
11 pants receiving financial assistance under  
12 loan programs of the Administration;

13          “(viii) the type and dollar amount of  
14 financial assistance received by program  
15 participants under loan programs of the  
16 Administration; and

17          “(ix) the results of participant satis-  
18 faction surveys, including a summary of  
19 any comments received from program par-  
20 ticipants;

21          “(D) an assessment of additional perform-  
22 ance outcome measures for the Veterans Busi-  
23 ness Owners Initiative Pilot Program, as identi-  
24 fied by the Associate Administrator;

1           “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-  
2           trator for improvement of the Veterans Busi-  
3           ness Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

4           “(F) an explanation of how the Veterans  
5           Business Owners Initiative Pilot Program has  
6           been integrated with other transition programs  
7           and related resources of the Administration and  
8           other Federal agencies; and

9           “(G) any additional information the Ad-  
10          ministrators determines necessary.”.

11       (b) FEDERAL SHARE FOR EXISTING PROGRAM.—

12           (1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
13           “existing award” means an award made under the  
14           Veterans’ Business Outreach Center Program of the  
15           Small Business Administration before the date of  
16           enactment of this Act that is in effect on the date  
17           of enactment of this Act.

18           (2) EXCEPTION FROM PROVISION ON FAILURE  
19           TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.—During the 2-  
20           year period beginning on the date of enactment of  
21           this Act, subsection (g)(8)(D) of section 32 of the  
22           Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b), as added by  
23           subsection (a), shall not apply to an existing award.

24       (c) GAO REPORTS.—

25           (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

1 (A) the term “covered individual” means—

2 (i) a veteran;

3 (ii) a service-disabled veteran;

4 (iii) a Reservist;

5 (iv) the spouse of an individual de-  
6 scribed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or

7 (v) the spouse of a member of the  
8 Armed Forces;

9 (B) the terms “Reservist”, “small business  
10 concern owned and controlled by veterans”, and  
11 “veterans’ business outreach center program”  
12 have the meanings given those terms in section  
13 32(g) of the Small Business Act, as added by  
14 subsection (a); and

15 (C) the terms “service-disabled veteran”,  
16 “small business concern”, and “veteran” have  
17 the meanings given those terms under section 3  
18 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

19 (2) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
22 Comptroller General of the United States shall  
23 submit a report regarding the ability of small  
24 business concerns owned and controlled by cov-  
25 ered individuals to access credit to—

1 (i) the Committee on Veterans' Af-  
2 fairs and the Committee on Small Business  
3 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

4 (ii) the Committee on Veterans' Af-  
5 fairs and the Committee on Small Business  
6 of the House of Representatives.

7 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted  
8 under subparagraph (A) shall include an anal-  
9 ysis of—

10 (i) the sources of credit used by small  
11 business concerns owned and controlled by  
12 covered individuals and the percentage of  
13 the credit obtained by small business con-  
14 cerns owned and controlled by covered in-  
15 dividuals that is obtained from each  
16 source;

17 (ii) the default rate for small business  
18 concerns owned and controlled by covered  
19 individuals separately for each source of  
20 credit described in clause (i), as compared  
21 to the default rate for the source of credit  
22 for small business concerns generally;

23 (iii) the Federal lending programs  
24 available to provide credit to small busi-

1           ness concerns owned and controlled by cov-  
2           ered individuals;

3           (iv) gaps, if any, in the availability of  
4           credit for small business concerns owned  
5           and controlled by covered individuals that  
6           are not being filled by the Federal Govern-  
7           ment or private sources;

8           (v) obstacles faced by covered individ-  
9           uals in trying to access credit;

10          (vi) the extent to which deployment  
11          and other military responsibilities affect  
12          the credit history of veterans and Reserv-  
13          ists; and

14          (vii) the extent to which covered indi-  
15          viduals are aware of Federal programs tar-  
16          geted towards helping covered individuals  
17          access credit.

18           (3) REPORT ON VETERANS' BUSINESS OUT-  
19           REACH CENTER PROGRAM.—

20           (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
21           after the end of the second fiscal year beginning  
22           after the date on which the veterans' business  
23           outreach center program is established, the  
24           Comptroller General of the United States shall  
25           evaluate the effectiveness of the veterans' busi-

1           ness outreach center program, and submit to  
2           Congress a report on the results of that evalua-  
3           tion.

4           (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted  
5           under subparagraph (A) shall include—

6                   (i) an assessment of—

7                           (I) the use of amounts made  
8                           available to carry out the veterans'  
9                           business outreach center program;

10                           (II) the effectiveness of the serv-  
11                           ices provided by each entity receiving  
12                           financial assistance under the vet-  
13                           erans' business outreach center pro-  
14                           gram;

15                           (III) whether the services de-  
16                           scribed in subclause (II) are duplica-  
17                           tive of services provided by other vet-  
18                           erans service organizations, programs  
19                           of the Small Business Administration,  
20                           or programs of another Federal de-  
21                           partment or agency and, if so, rec-  
22                           ommendations regarding how to al-  
23                           leviate the duplication of the services;

24                           (IV) whether there are areas of  
25                           the United States in which there are

1 not adequate entrepreneurial services  
2 for small business concerns owned and  
3 controlled by veterans and, if so,  
4 whether there is a veterans' business  
5 outreach center established under the  
6 veterans' business outreach center  
7 program providing services to that  
8 area; and

9 (V) whether there is a correlation  
10 between the proximity of a veterans'  
11 business outreach center to small  
12 business concerns owned and con-  
13 trolled by veterans and the rate of the  
14 use of the services of the veterans'  
15 business outreach center; and

16 (ii) recommendations, if any, for im-  
17 proving the veterans' business outreach  
18 center program.

19 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND**  
20 **ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS.**

21 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

22 (1) the terms “Administration” and “Adminis-  
23 trator” mean the Small Business Administration  
24 and the Administrator thereof, respectively;



1           (2) the term “individual eligible for a veteran  
2           entrepreneurial development program” means—

3                   (A) a covered individual, as defined in sec-  
4                   tion 32(d)(1) of the Small Business Act, as  
5                   amended by section 2;

6                   (B) a covered individual, as defined in sec-  
7                   tion 32(e)(1) of the Small Business Act, as  
8                   amended by section 2;

9                   (C) a service-disabled veteran, as defined  
10                  in section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act  
11                  (15 U.S.C. 632(q)(1)); and

12                  (D) an individual who qualifies to be the  
13                  owner of a small business concern owned and  
14                  controlled by veterans, as defined in section  
15                  32(g)(1)(C) of the Small Business Act, as  
16                  amended by section 2;

17           (3) the term “one-stop resource” means the  
18           one-stop online resource established under sub-  
19           section (c)(1); and

20           (4) the term “small business concern” has the  
21           meaning given that term under section 3 of the  
22           Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

23           (b) VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS.—Not later  
24           than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
25           Administrator shall establish guidelines to improve the

1 network of peer-to-peer counseling and mentoring for indi-  
2 viduals eligible for a veteran entrepreneurial development  
3 program relating to the business development and entre-  
4 preneurial programs of the Administration.

5 (c) ONE-STOP ONLINE RESOURCE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-  
7 tablish an online mechanism that serves as a one-  
8 stop online resource for veterans regarding all of the  
9 entrepreneurial development programs of the Admin-  
10 istration.

11 (2) CONTENTS.—The one-stop resource shall  
12 include descriptions of each entrepreneurial program  
13 of the Administration (which shall include the pro-  
14 grams described in paragraph (3)), including—

15 (A) target client descriptions for each pro-  
16 gram;

17 (B) contact information for information on  
18 or assistance regarding each program from lo-  
19 cally, statewide, and nationally available  
20 sources;

21 (C) a detailed description of the services  
22 available under each program;

23 (D) a description of any costs associated  
24 with the services under each program;

1           (E) an outline of program curriculums if  
2 training seminars or courses are offered; and

3           (F) other resource information that the  
4 Administrator determines appropriate and nec-  
5 essary for veteran entrepreneurs and veterans  
6 who own small business concerns, in order to  
7 ensure the one-stop online resource provides in-  
8 formation and resources necessary for a veteran  
9 beginning to develop a small business concern.

10       (3) PROGRAMS.—The programs identified and  
11 described under the one-stop resource shall in-  
12 clude—

13           (A) the small business development center  
14 program under section 21 of the Small Busi-  
15 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 648);

16           (B) the women’s business center program  
17 under section 29 of the Small Business Act (15  
18 U.S.C. 656);

19           (C) the programs of the Office of Entre-  
20 preneurship Education of the Administration;

21           (D) the Boots to Business Program under  
22 section 32(d) of the Small Business Act, as  
23 amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

24           (E) the Women Veterans Business Train-  
25 ing Program under section 32(e) of the Small

1 Business Act, as amended by section 2(a) of  
2 this Act;

3 (F) the Business Training Program for  
4 Service Disabled Veterans under section 32(f)  
5 of the Small Business Act, as amended by sec-  
6 tion 2(a) of this Act;

7 (G) the veterans' business outreach center  
8 program under section 32(g) of the Small Busi-  
9 ness Act, as amended by section 2(a) of this  
10 Act;

11 (H) the Service Corps of Retired Execu-  
12 tives program authorized by section 8(b)(1) of  
13 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1));  
14 and

15 (I) any other program of the Administra-  
16 tion determined appropriate by the Adminis-  
17 trator.

18 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**

19 **TASK FORCE.**

20 Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
21 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(4) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once  
23 each year, the Administrator shall submit to Con-  
24 gress a report—

1           “(A) discussing the appointments made to  
2           and activities of the task force; and

3           “(B) identifying and outlining a plan for  
4           outreach and promotion of all the programs au-  
5           thorized under the Veterans Small Business  
6           Ownership Improvements Act, or an amend-  
7           ment made by that Act.”.

8 **SEC. 5. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING.**

9           Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
10 637(b)) is amended—

11           (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the  
12           end;

13           (2) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at  
14           the end and inserting “; and”; and

15           (3) by adding at the end the following:

16           “(18) to make a grant to, or enter into a coop-  
17           erative agreement with, a nonprofit entity to operate  
18           an educational training program to provide assist-  
19           ance to small business concerns owned and con-  
20           trolled by veterans regarding how to increase the  
21           likelihood of being awarded contracts with the Fed-  
22           eral Government—

23           “(A) which shall be made to or entered  
24           into with a nonprofit entity that has a track  
25           record of successfully providing educational and

1 job training services to targeted veterans popu-  
2 lations in diverse locations;

3 “(B) under which the nonprofit entity shall  
4 be required to match any Federal funds re-  
5 ceived for the program with State, local, or pri-  
6 vate sector funds; and

7 “(C) under which the nonprofit entity shall  
8 use a diverse group of professional service ex-  
9 perts, such as Federal, State, and local con-  
10 tracting experts and private sector industry ex-  
11 perts with first-hand experience in Federal Gov-  
12 ernment contracting, to provide instruction to  
13 small business concerns owned and controlled  
14 by veterans.”.

○