



March 4, 2022

Rep. Darlene Taylor
Chairwoman
House Committee on Government Affairs
Georgia General Assembly

RE: Establishment of a State Office of Supplier Diversity through the Georgia Economic Growth Act

Dear Chairwoman Taylor and Members of the Committee:

As a representative of the 1.1 million small businesses in Georgia, Small Business Majority writes today in support of the Georgia Economic Growth Act, legislation that would establish a State Office of Supplier Diversity to further identify and increase small business procurement opportunities for minority-owned firms.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers Georgia's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. Along with our Georgia Small Business Council, we engage nearly 3,000 small business owners across the state to advocate for public policy solutions and deliver resources to entrepreneurs to promote equitable small business growth. A key component of our work in Georgia involves outreach to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including access to capital, workforce issues, healthcare and more.

We've seen over the course of the last few decades that Georgia's demographics are changing rapidly, and today, an estimated 45% of Georgians are minorities. Creating pathways that support minority-owned businesses are essential to leveling the playing field, and the Georgia Economic Growth Act can accomplish just that. When we support small businesses, we directly support local economies and communities that may not otherwise be seen or reached.

Just last year, Georgia was named as the top state for doing business, for the eighth year in a row. Our economy is largely sustained by the employment and economic success of small businesses, so it's only natural to continue to implement policies that will advance small business recovery for our job creators. Today, I encourage you to consider passing House Bill 78, which would create a State Office of Supplier Diversity through the Georgia Economic Growth Act. This would increase supplier diversity in state contracts and expand procurement opportunities targeting minority-owned businesses at a crucial time when small business owners continue to struggle in this uneven playing field.

Sincerely,

Rachel Shanklin

Georgia Outreach Manager, Small Business Majority