



June 4, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and House Minority Leader Jeffries:

As a representative of America's 33 million small businesses and on behalf of Small Business Majority we write in support of the *Right to Contraception Act* (H.R. 4121/S. 1999), which would expand and protect access to reproductive healthcare tools like contraceptives.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations to deliver resources to entrepreneurs and advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth. Our work is bolstered by extensive research and deep connections with the small business community that enable us to educate stakeholders about key issues impacting America's entrepreneurs, with a special focus on the smallest businesses and those facing systemic inequities. More than two-thirds of our network is represented by women entrepreneurs.

The economic impact of women-owned businesses cannot be ignored—from 2019 to 2023 the rate of women-owned business growth outpaced the rate of businesses owned by men by more than 94%. Women small business owners represent an impressive share of the economy with more than 14 million businesses, 12.2 million employees, and over \$2.7 trillion in economic impact.¹ Despite the disproportionate economic impact on women, especially during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, these firms continue to drive substantial and record-breaking growth to the American economy. Specifically, women of color (including Black and other underrepresented communities) have driven much of this growth; the number of Black, women-owned firms has increased to 2.1 million businesses, employing more than 528,000 workers, and generating over \$98 billion in revenue.²

However, in a post-Dobbs landscape, where the autonomy of women from all backgrounds continues to be threatened across the nation, women-owned businesses cannot ignore the inextricable links between economic growth and access to reproductive healthcare. Small Business Majority data show that women-owned businesses are demanding more from our government, ensuring that their right to flourish is protected by strong policies that work to expand autonomy, not undermine it, through access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare.

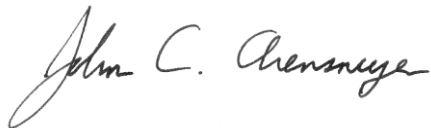
¹ Growth of Women-owned Businesses Outpaces the Market Post-Pandemic. The Business Journals. January 2024. <https://www.bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/latest-news/2024/01/growth-of-women-owned-businesses-outpaces-the-mark.html>

² The 2024 Impact of Women-Owned Businesses - A focus on Black/African American women. Wells Fargo. 2024. https://www.wippeducationinstitute.org/files/ugd/5cba3e_286af0cc74e7499897ea75dfead832f3.pdf

In a 2023 national opinion poll conducted by Small Business Majority, an overwhelming majority (70%) of women entrepreneurs expressed support for policies that would ensure and expand access to abortion care and a staggering 90% expressed support for policies that would ensure and expand access to birth control. More than half of women entrepreneurs (54%) agree that access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion care and birth control, is important to their economic security. Furthermore, nearly two-thirds of women small business owners (64%) say their ability to decide if and when to have children has allowed them to advance in their career and start their own businesses. A majority agree that their ability to decide if and when to have children impacts their financial security, as well as their ability to grow their businesses. A strong majority of women small business owners (71%) also agree that it is important for their employees to have access to reproductive health.³

Despite attempts to politicize access to reproductive healthcare, our data shows that support for access to contraceptives and other reproductive services is a bipartisan issue. 58% of Republican women respondents agree that all women should have access to reproductive health, including abortion care and birth control.⁴ Access to reproductive services, products, and freedoms, is a business and economic issue that needs attention at the federal level. Unless swift action is taken, starting with passing the *Right to Contraception Act*, women entrepreneurs will continue to face undue burdens to their success, with a disproportionate impact falling at the feet of rural, underserved, and minority women-owned businesses.⁵ We urge Congress to swiftly pass this legislation and to continue fighting for safe and affordable access to contraceptives to empower small business growth and provide women with the confidence they need to plan for economic success.

Sincerely,



John Arensmeyer
Founder & CEO
Small Business Majority

³ Small Business Majority. Scientific Opinion Poll: Women entrepreneurs see access to reproductive health as essential to their economic security (June 2023). <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/sites/default/files/research-reports/2023-women-small-business-reproductive-health-report.pdf>

⁴ Small Business Majority. Access to Reproductive Health Underpins Women Entrepreneurs' Economic Success (March 2018). <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/our-research/healthcare/access-reproductive-health-underpins-women-entrepreneurs-economic-success>

⁵ Small Business Majority provides comments on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Coverage of Over-the-Counter Preventive Services. EBSA-2023-0013 (RIN:0938-ZB81, 121Q-ZA31) (10/04/2023). <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/policy/small-business-majority-comments-reproductive-healthcare-proposal-over-counter-medication>