



February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Honorable Anne Healey  
Rules and Executive Nominations Committee  
Room 150, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 1327 – Small Business Development Center Network Fund - Minimum Appropriation – Support**

Dear Delegate Healey:

HB 1327 is requesting an increase to the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) annual appropriations from the current \$950K to \$3M by FY24.

The SBDC has a proven track record of working intensively with current and aspiring entrepreneurs, and their efforts have had a direct impact on our business community in Carroll County, MD.

In a five-year period, here are some of the statistics for Carroll County, MD as a direct result of SBDC services.

- 24 new businesses started
- 719 new jobs created
- \$3.7M in Capital Infusion (Average loan \$52k)

According to research conducted by RESI at Towson University; in 2018 for every \$1 the State invested into the SBDC program, they generated \$19 in state and local income, payroll, property, and sales tax. There is significant demand for SBDC consulting services, and a high number of Carroll Countian's dreams are delayed or denied, due to consultant ever-growing workloads. Our membership is comprised of 99% small businesses, this bill would provide our members more opportunities to start and grow their companies thus creating a stronger economic climate for our Carroll County and Maryland as a whole.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members, supports this bill and asks that you give it a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce  
CC: Delegate Haven Shoemaker  
Senator Justin Ready

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce • 9 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157  
Phone: 410-848-9050 • Fax: 410-876-1023 • [www.carrollcountychamber.org](http://www.carrollcountychamber.org)