

Floor Statement - S. 1429, Small Business Development Centers

Senator Paul E. Tsongas

Mr. President. I offer my support for the passage of this legislation, S. 1429, to provide for the continuation of the Small Business Development Center program. This program has proven to be very effective in assisting the small business person and merits continued funding.

Small Business Development Centers perform a vital role in the small business community by offering such services as: coordinating and conducting research and education on small business concerns, dissemination of information and counsel concerning government regulations and state-of-the-art technologies, and access to laboratory and engineering facilities. By their very nature, small businesses are not large enough to provide such services for themselves. They must rely on outside help such as the Small Business Development Center program in order to survive in today's competitive market.

As an example of the kind of services provided, one of the Small Business Development regional centers in my home state of Massachusetts, located at Southeastern Massachusetts University in North Dartmouth, co-sponsored with industry a one-day seminar on productivity last week. An opportunity for discussion and participation by the participants was included, thus facilitating communication and idea sharing among small business owners. This kind of interaction and exchange is essential for the success and growth of the business person and his or her company.

Currently, 27 Small Business Development Centers are funded through this program with many others in the planning stages. Enactment of this legislation will ensure their future.

In closing, I again voice my support for this important piece of legislation and ask for yours. Small businesses are a part of the life blood of America and deserve our assistance.

11/15/83

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