

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR CARTER

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to extend the certification for an 8(a) business by one additional year if the business was certified by January 1, 2020.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to extend certifications for an 8(a) business by one additional year if the business was certified by January 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, the 8(a) Business Development Program (program) is a business assistance program that exists to level the playing field for small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people or entities; and

WHEREAS, the program offers a broad scope of assistance to businesses that are at least fifty-one percent owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals whose personal net worth is two hundred fifty thousand dollars or less, and who own four million dollars or less in assets; and

WHEREAS, the 8(a) program is an essential instrument for helping socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs gain access to the economic mainstream of American society and helps thousands of aspiring entrepreneurs to gain a foothold in government contracting; and

WHEREAS, beginning as early as March 11, 2020, many states declared a public health emergency as a result of the imminent threat posed by the outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus known commonly as COVID-19; and

1           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control suggested aggressive measures for  
2           limiting the possible interaction of the public with individuals who are exposed to or test  
3           positive for the virus; and

4           WHEREAS, the response by many states to the contagion of COVID-19 required a  
5           large scale disruption of the state economies as many businesses were closed in order to  
6           protect the public health and to prevent a spike in demand for health care services that would  
7           have overwhelmed the capacity of the health care system to provide services; and

8           WHEREAS, a participant in the certified 8(a) Business Development Program  
9           receives a program term of nine years from the date of the Small Business Administration's  
10          approval letter certifying admission to the program, including four years in the  
11          developmental stage and five years in the transitional stage; and

12          WHEREAS, efforts to slow or disrupt the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in the  
13          temporary closure of many 8(a) certified businesses; and

14          WHEREAS, temporary closures of 8(a) certified businesses may have prevented  
15          these businesses from reaching the program goal of maintaining a balance between their  
16          commercial and government business, and this may result in poor performance reviews,  
17          incomplete business planning, and unfair evaluations due to the unforeseen and unavoidable  
18          consequences of COVID-19.

19          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes  
20          the Congress of the United States to extend certifications for 8(a) businesses for one  
21          additional year beyond the requisite nine-year term, thereby allowing those 8(a) certified  
22          businesses that are in the first four years of certification to remain in the developmental stage  
23          an additional year if the business was certified before January 1, 2020, and similarly, the 8(a)  
24          certified businesses currently in the five-year developmental stage would be extended by one  
25          additional year.

26          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27          secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of  
28          Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States  
29          Congress.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Yoursheka George.

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DIGEST

SCR 22 Original                      2020 First Extraordinary Session                      Carter

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