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Legislative Committee

February 16, 2021

Commerce Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 504
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Commerce Committee:

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2,175 members. Our chamber represents businesses of all sizes and from all industry sectors, from large corporations, to micro businesses and entrepreneurs, and we are committed to promoting a positive business climate in Middlesex County. In addition to being an effective business organization, our chamber strives to be a strong community organization. We run a number of events and programs that support workforce development, youth development, substance abuse prevention, our veterans, and much more.

The purpose of this letter today is to offer the chamber's support for H.B. No. 5481, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES.

In our 2021 Public Policy Agenda, our chamber urged the General Assembly to Provide support to businesses, especially those most impacted by the pandemic, by leveraging all levels of government to provide financial assistance, training and programs to help them remain viable in these challenging times. Women and minority owned businesses have been hit especially hard by the pandemic, and we applaud this effort to support their continued development in a challenging economic time.

As always, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce looks forward to being a constructive partner as these important conversations continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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*Awards: Governor's Laurel Award for Responsible Social Involvement—President's White House Citation for Private Sector Initiatives
U.S. Department of Labor LIFT America Award—Connecticut Small Business Advocate Award—Vision 2000 Excellence Award—NAACP Business Award*