



GETTING INVOLVED: ASKING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE DBE PROGRAM

★ What's At Stake

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program helps to remedy past and present discrimination by providing women and minority-owned small businesses with opportunities to secure government contracts and access critical business networks.

This program is essential to helping ensure that all businesses—regardless of size or ownership—can access federal contracting opportunities and not get left behind. There are more than 50,000 certified DBE companies in the U.S., employing over 500,000 people.

But its future is under threat. We are in the midst of a long, hard fight to protect our DBEs and ensure the reauthorization of the program by Congress – and we need your help!

★ How to Get Involved

- **Join us in Washington, DC on October 20th - 23rd:**
 - On Oct. 20th - 23rd, members of Women First National Legislative Committee and DBEs of America will gather in DC to meet with their members of Congress about the importance of reauthorizing the DBE program.
 - Learn more about the event and register to join us at **dbesofamerica.org/events**
- **Contact your Member of Congress from home:**
 - Dial (202) 224-3121 and request to be connected the U.S. representative or U.S. senator you would like to reach. The switchboard will patch you through to the office you've requested.
 - If you need to confirm who represents you in Congress, you can do so by visiting this website: www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member
 - Visit www.womenfirstnlc.com/resources/ to find state specific talking points and how-to guides.

★ About Women First

Women First was founded in 1987 to protect DBE status for thousands of women-owned businesses across the country. Since then, Women First has represented women's small businesses in the highway, transit, and airport construction sectors.