

Women have started businesses in record numbers over the last 10 years. They are driving the economy. They are helping to expand opportunities and provide good payrolls for their workers. They are willing to use the new information technologies even more than men. The explosion of capabilities through information technologies certainly opens up a range for a whole new series of undertakings.

The number of small businesses owned and controlled by women is expanding at a very rapid rate. Today, small businesses owned by women total 30 percent of all businesses in the United States. Their numbers are expanding at such a pace it is anticipated that women-owned small businesses will make up over 50 percent of all businesses by 2010. Given where we came from, that is a gratifying and astounding statistic.

But for all the good news, women-owned small businesses still face some age-old obstacles in starting and running their businesses: work and family conflicts, a lack of access to capital, and complex regulatory and tax issues.

In addition, yesterday the Senate adopted a resolution I sponsored, S. Res. 311, that was adopted unanimously. I express my appreciation to my colleagues for adopting it. It called attention to the Federal Government's failure to meet the statutory goal to award 5 percent of Federal contract dollars to women-owned small businesses.

The members of the Small Business Committee who joined me in cosponsoring this resolution included my ranking member, Senator KERRY of Massachusetts, and also sponsoring it were Senators BURNS, SNOWE, LANDRIEU, LIEBERMAN, EDWARDS, as well as Senator ABRAHAM, who authored last year's initiative in the committee to help women reach the 5-percent goal. In addition, Senators BINGAMAN and MURRAY joined us as cosponsors of the resolution.

In 1994, Congress recognized the important role women-owned small businesses played in our economy. During the consideration of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, the Senate approved a provision directing that 5 percent of all Federal procurement dollars be awarded each year to women-owned small businesses. The goal includes 5 percent of prime contract dollars and 5 percent of subcontract dollars, and was included in the final conference report enacted into law.

The Federal Departments and Agencies have failed to meet that 5-percent goal enacted in 1994. After Senator ABRAHAM chaired a committee field hearing in Michigan on the state of women business owners, he offered an amendment addressing the failure of the Federal Departments and Agencies to meet the 5-percent goal during the Small Business Committee markup of

the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999.

That was adopted unanimously by the committee and enacted into law as Public Law 106-165, which directed that GAO undertake an audit of Federal procurement systems and their impact on women-owned small businesses.

The statistics for Federal procurement in fiscal year 1999 have just been released. Again, the 5-percent goal for women-owned small businesses was not met. It fell over 50 percent short of the goal, reaching only 2.4 percent. The administration's failure to reach that goal was the subject of the resolution, which resolved that the Senate strongly urge the President to adopt a policy in support of the 5-percent goal for women-owned small businesses, to encourage the heads of the Federal Departments to make a concentrated effort to meet the 5-percent goal before the end of fiscal year 2000. I understand the President has now issued an Executive order. But the second part of the resolution says the President should hold the heads of Federal Departments and Agencies accountable to ensure that the 5-percent goal is achieved during this year.

But these are just some of the issues confronting women-owned small businesses. I am very pleased to say I have been joined by Senator KERRY of Massachusetts, Senator SNOWE, Senator LANDRIEU, Senator FEINSTEIN, and Senator HUTCHISON of Texas to convene a National Women's Business Summit on June 4 and 5 of this year in Kansas City, MO. This summit will give women small business owners a chance to tell Congress and the next President what they need and what will work. Their agenda will serve as the women's small business agenda for the next Congress and the next President.

I might add that we have nationally known women and professional business leaders, as well as bipartisan government servants, who will be talking with the participants in the conference. I invite women who are engaged in and concerned about small business to participate. More information can be found about the summit on my Senate office web site at [www.Senate.gov/bond](http://www.Senate.gov/bond) or they can call us through the Capitol number: (202) 224-3121. We would be happy to provide them information.

I think it will be a very interesting and worthwhile endeavor in Kansas City. I am looking forward to participating. I know we will have many good ideas, based on the women participating in that conference, on how we can help the fastest growing and most important new sector of the economy—women-owned small businesses in the United States.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 2603, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2603) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, as chairman of the legislative branch subcommittee of appropriations, I would like to take a few minutes to describe S. 2603, the legislative branch appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2001.

The bill, as reported by the Appropriations Committee, provides for \$1,721,077,000 in new budget authority exclusive of the House items. This is a \$58,607,000 increase over fiscal year 2000. It is \$146,770,000 below the President's request.

The subcommittee's allocation is 1.8 percent above last year's funding level, which is the \$43 million increase.

We are being very frugal with the legislative branch. I think we are doing a responsible job of keeping the overall increase at a level that is defensible.

We are not allowing the legislative branch appropriations to grow faster than inflation. We are not allowing it to grow faster than the population. And the demands that are made upon the legislative branch we are keeping under 2 percent.

It was a challenge to draft a bill that stayed within this allocation because, as always happens, there was \$20 million of new items that Congress committed to in previous years but which had not been funded. Therefore, they were not included in last year's base.

If we were going to talk about an increase over last year's base, but we had \$20 million worth of obligations that were not included in that base, we realized that it created a tension and a pressure on the committee. But that is what we have to do when we are dealing with budgets. I have dealt with budgets in the business world and understand that this is not an unusual kind of challenge.

The mandatory increases that we have in the bill alone account for \$54