



**WIPP APPLAUDS SENATORS SNOWE AND GILLIBRAND FOR
INTRODUCTION OF S.3399 – FAIRNESS IN WOMEN-OWNED SMALL
BUSINESS CONTRACTING ACT OF 2010**

For Immediate Release
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Senators Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced an important bill that will strengthen the ability of women-owned businesses to secure federal contracts. Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) strongly supports this legislation and urges the Congress to enact this legislation as soon as possible.

For eleven long years, women business owners have anxiously awaited the creation of a women's federal contracting program. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has taken a major step by announcing a proposed women's procurement program and we applaud the SBA for doing so. However, the program lacks some critical components included in other socioeconomic programs administered by the SBA that require changes by law.

S. 3399 will remove the dollar limits of \$5 million for manufacturing and \$3 million for other goods and services that qualify for the proposed program currently limited by statute. In addition, the legislation will allow the federal government to award sole source contracts under the program. This change would bring the women's procurement program in line with other socioeconomic programs such as 8(a), HUBZone, and the service disabled veterans program. Another important change is a requirement to review data used to determine program eligibility every five years.

Enactment of this legislation will ensure that the women's procurement program is on equal footing with other programs which enable the federal government to meet its contracting goals with small businesses. WIPP urges all Members of Congress to support S.3399.

Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) a national, bipartisan public policy organization representing forty-nine national organizations and over half a million women and minority business owners.