

---

## KATHERINE M. COLLINS, APR

1081 N.W. Second Avenue, Ontario, OR 97914

---

Feb. 26, 2021

Representative David Gomberg  
Senator Lee Beyer  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Honorable Legislators:

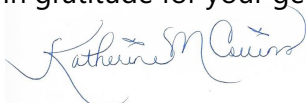
I am a strong supporter of government programs which provide its citizenry with a hand to pull them up or assist them in a time of trouble, rather than programs which just provide hand-outs, implying recipients are to remain at a lower level – or at the bottom. I support programs that provide a return on the government's investment because, as we know, there is no such thing as a "government dollar," only a dollar that I, along with my fellow taxpayers, have pooled together to support efforts benefitting the common good.

There is quantitative data on what SBDCs provide, but I wanted to point out the qualitative as well, which still has an economic impact. Having received support from Andrea Testi and the advisers at our local SBDC, I am, in turn, able to support other small businesses and nonprofits in our community and I bring outside dollars to our high-poverty region. I am able to make personal donations to help local nonprofits. This is the ripple effect that SBDCs have on a community. This pandemic reminded us that poor mental health can have a significant negative impact on our economy. SBDCs help here, too. I have attended many of the workshops offered through the SBDC; I've presented at some as well. The energy in those is almost tangible; business owners, managers, front-line workers - they leave feeling energized and motivated. The networking at these is incredible. Because positivity leads to positivity, attendees are able to put information to use at their businesses when they leave, but they also are better friends, neighbors, and partners simply because they have challenged themselves, learned something new, had some fun. Our local SBDC started a networking group for veteran-owned businesses that became something of a support group. The individuals who continue to participate in this two years later are some of the happiest people you see around town! Happy people do good things in a community; there truly is a positive ripple effect with economic benefits.

I am a consultant and was preparing to do my taxes recently. While I'm quite familiar with receiving 1099s, this year, I needed to give one to an individual with whom I co-facilitated an online session. The contractor paid me the lump sum; I paid the sub. (If you ever have a few hours to kill, try to find out how to obtain, fill out, and where to send a form 1026 from the IRS website.) One email to an SBDC adviser, and he was at my front door two hours later with the forms I needed! He also was able to answer my questions about whether I need to file taxes in other states, where I've had clients in 2020. The SBDC literally provides amazing front-door service.

I urge you to maintain the current funding for Oregon's SBDCs so they can continue to help grow our economy. Now, would be a terrible time for any reductions because of the sheer numbers of small businesses who have been hurt as a result of closures and gathering restrictions.

In gratitude for your genuine consideration,



Katherine M. Collins