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California Association for Local Economic Development

May 31, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814
Leg.unit@gov.ca.gov

RE: Preserve Funding for Small Business Technical Assistance Program at GO-Biz.

Dear Governor Newsom:

As negotiations continue over a final budget agreement for FY 2024-25, the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED), representing over 850 economic development practitioners and stakeholders, respectfully requests that the final budget agreement retain the Legislature's proposal to preserve funding for core business support services for small, minority, women-owned, and rural businesses through the Small Business Technical Assistance Program (TAP) within your office of business and economic development – GO-Biz.

California's small businesses are the foundation of our state's economy, generating economic activity, jobs, and both state and local tax revenues. As you know, continuing to invest in economic development programs like this spurs both business and economic growth, and creates economic opportunities for California residents.

TAP funding currently supports over 100,000 businesses with training and consulting. This program produces results, generates vital tax revenues, and leverages over \$35 million in federal funding. For these reasons, CALED respectfully urges you maintain the current level of funding for this vital program that assists our small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at 916-448-8252, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gurbax Sahota
President & CEO

Cc: Dee Dee Myers, Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development