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The Honorable Jack Reed  
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Services and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
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Washington, DC 20510

18 July 2025

### Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government,

On behalf of the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA) and our members, I write to express our opposition to the proposed elimination of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) program in the President's Fiscal Year 2026 budget. We respectfully urge the Subcommittee to preserve full funding for this essential program in the FY 2026 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

VBOCs serve as a critical lifeline for transitioning servicemembers, veterans, and military spouses who are seeking to launch or grow a small business. These centers are often the first stop for those turning military experience into entrepreneurial success. Eliminating this program would be a serious blow to veteran entrepreneurship and would strip away a key entry point for those transitioning from military service to business ownership.

According to the SBA's FY 2025 Congressional Budget Justification, the VBOC program held more than 1,700 training events, including over 1,000 Boots to Business Reboot classes at more than 190 military installations, reaching more than 55,000 veterans and military spouses. These are not just numbers. They represent individuals transitioning from service to civilian life who rely on this support to succeed.

The President's FY 2026 proposal would eliminate all 31 VBOCs currently operating across the United States. AMBA members have worked and continue to work closely with these centers to support veteran entrepreneurs and expand economic opportunity in the military community. Ending this program would be a major setback. Our veterans deserve continued access to the tools and guidance that help them succeed in business and contribute to the American economy.

We urge you to reject this harmful cut and ensure full funding for the Veterans Business Outreach Center program in the FY 2026 FSGG Appropriations bill. AMBA stands ready to support your efforts in protecting this vital program and the veterans it serves.

Warm regards,

Omuso D. George  
Brigadier General, USA (Ret.)  
President & CEO