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**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

August 24, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE  
ORIGINAL BY STANDARD MAIL

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto  
Administrator  
Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20416

Re: Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Drug-Free Workplace Assistance Grants Program

Dear Administrator Barreto:

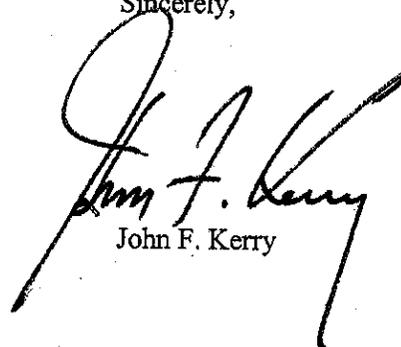
Thank you for your July 28, 2004, response to my letter regarding the extension of the Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. Based on this letter, it is my understanding that the SBA is making plans to award funds from the Coverdell Drug Free Workplace grant program to "entities other than SBDCs" because of the reauthorization of the SBA's programs, including the SBDC Drug-Free Workplace Assistance Grants program, has lapsed.

As you are aware, the Senate unanimously approved S. 2700, extending the reauthorization of the SBA's programs, including the SBDCs' program. Though the House of Representatives failed to approve the legislation before Congress adjourned for the August recess, both the House and Senate are continuing to work together to pass legislation once Congress returns in September.

To ensure that the SBDCs that have an excellent record with the Drug Free Workplace Assistance Grants program are afforded a chance to compete, I am requesting that you delay awarding any new grants until Congress is given an opportunity to pass the legislation reauthorizing the SBA's programs.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry