

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 020693)

RESOLUTION

Urging the United States House of Representatives to adopt H.R. 3372, the "Access and Openness in Small Business Lending Act of 2001," which amends the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

WHEREAS, The United States Department of the Treasury, in an April 2000 report, found that, on average, communities that were between 50 and 80 percent minority received less than ten percent of all small business loans nationally; and

WHEREAS, The national trend is closely mirrored in the Philadelphia region, where the Greater Philadelphia Capital Access Report revealed that less than 10 percent of small business lending is done in communities that are more than twenty percent black; and

WHEREAS, The original intent of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act was to prevent lenders from collecting race and gender data from applicants seeking business loans in order to protect the civil rights of said applicants; and

WHEREAS, The de facto effect of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act has been to mask lending patterns to minorities and women seeking business loans; and

WHEREAS, The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act was amended in the early 1990's to allow home mortgage applicants to voluntarily supply race and gender information, which has enabled the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council to create aggregate and disclosure reports that track home mortgage lending patterns by race and gender; and

WHEREAS, A similar amendment to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act would allow the FFEIC to track small business loan patterns by race and gender, thus providing the tool necessary to work toward the elimination of disparities; now therefore

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RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Urges the United States House of Representatives to adopt H.R. 3372, the “Access and Openness in Small Business Lending Act of 2001,” which amends the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition in recognition of its strong advocacy and support for equal credit opportunities for all Americans.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the thirty-first of October, 2002.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Marie B. Hauser
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Goode, Cohen and Mariano

Sponsored by: Council President Verna, Councilmembers Goode, Cohen, Mariano, Kenney, Reynolds Brown, Blackwell, Nutter, Ortiz, Tasco, Rizzo and Miller