



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, women contribute to the diversity and inclusiveness of businesses nationwide and are vital to the growth of the economy; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2017 study conducted by the National Association of Women Business Owners, more than 11.6 million firms were owned by women, employing nearly 9 million people, and generating \$1.7 trillion in sales; according to that same 2017 study, women-owned businesses comprised 39 percent of all private firms, contributing an estimated 8 percent of employment across the United States and 4.2 percent of revenue; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, women make up about 57 percent of the workforce, and own approximately 35.6 percent of businesses across our state, according to the 2018 *Status of Women in North Carolina: Employment and Earnings Report*; and

WHEREAS, since the onset of COVID-19, many minority- and women-owned businesses have closed nationwide, while the gender wage gap continues to see disparity across North Carolina and the United States; women in North Carolina earn a median income of \$36,400, averaging \$8,600 less than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is committed to eliminating inequities for women and communities of color; in 2018, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order (EO) No. 82 to promote the health and wellness of women and families by clarifying protections afforded to pregnant state employees; in 2020, the North Carolina Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses launched a new small business impact grant program under Governor Cooper's EO 143, titled RETOOLNC, to help certified minority- and women-owned businesses recover from the present pandemic; and

WHEREAS, eradicating extreme poverty across our state and nation depends on ensuring inclusive economic growth that reaches typically excluded populations like women and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Women's Entrepreneurship Day is a movement to support women in business by encouraging women leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs to initiate startups, drive economic expansion, and advance communities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes and promotes the advancement of women's entrepreneurship throughout our state and nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2020, as "**WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this ninth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.