



1001 Conn. Ave NW, Suite 504 | Washington DC, 20036
(202) 463-8722 | info@usblackchambers.org | www.usblackchambers.org

February 26, 2021

Ron Busby, President & CEO
U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.

Charles O'Neal, Chair
President, Texas Association of
African American Chambers of
Commerce

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President and Co-Founder,
Enlightened Inc.

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Larry Holman
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County Black Chamber of
Commerce

Veta Lynn Jeffery
Executive Director,
Heartland St. Louis Black
Chamber of Commerce

Susan Vanderbilt
Chair, Nashville Black Chamber
of Commerce

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
Chairwoman
Committee on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Velázquez:

On behalf of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC), I write today in strong support of the *Prison to Proprietorship Act of 2021*. The USBC represents Black businesses both large and small. We work to help Black businesses thrive, bolster the American economy, create responsible policies, and prepare the next generation of Black entrepreneurs.

USBC supports the Prison to Proprietorship Act of 2021 because we believe this legislation will empower our nation's thousands of citizens that will reenter society to create, inspire, and reimagine industry, leading to economic growth and positive impact on local communities

The mass-incarceration of African Americans remains a concerning issue for our nation. As champions of entrepreneurship, we recognize the need and opportunity for successful policy that aims to reduce that population as well as the alarming rate of recidivism among formerly incarcerated African Americans. I am confident that business ownership can illuminate a path forward and a brighter future for these individuals.

I thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation which will positively benefit the growth of entrepreneurship among newly released Americans.

Sincerely,

Ron Busby
President & CEO
U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.