

## **Women-Owned Businesses**

Women-owned businesses are critically important to the American economy. More and more women are launching businesses as their path to professional success. In fact, they are growing at twice the rate of all other businesses. Yet, women continue to face unique challenges in the world of business. Due to George Bush's unsupportive policies, the last four years have been filled with cuts to programs that matter to small business women the most. Today, we face a stark choice between the failed polices of the Bush administration that favor big businesses and the vision John Edwards and I have for the future of small business.

I am running for president because there is so much work that can and must be done to help the American people realize their dreams. John Edwards and I have proposed a series of initiatives to aid the women-owned small business community in its quest for greater economic opportunities and independence. We have a plan that will expand federal loan programs, increase federal government venture capital investment, ensure that all small businesses get their fair share of federal contracts, and simplify the tax system. We will also reward companies that create jobs here at home, eliminate capital gains taxes for long-term investments in small businesses, and reduce the paperwork and regulatory burden.

I honor your hard work and your values of family and country. As president, I will usher in a new era of opportunity for small businesses and will make America stronger at home and more respected in the world.

Warm regards,

John Kerry