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Start and Grow California's Small Businesses: *Trends, Challenges, & Opportunities*

The Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy is sponsoring an informational workshop on **October 18, at 1:30 p.m. in room 126**. Presentations will be made by organizations at the forefront of serving California's business community. Attendees can look forward to presentations and direct feedback on the issues which most affect small business owners and entrepreneurs, and how they might be addressed in policy and legislation.

Topics and guests will include:

- 1) What do small and microbusinesses need? How can the state support them and create good jobs for a win-win? Lead by the California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO), a statewide network of microlenders and training programs that promotes entrepreneurship for California's diverse communities.
 - 2) Access to capital is the issue for small businesses. How is the landscape of capital options evolving? Lead by the Small Business Majority, a national small business advocacy organization, founded and run by small business owners to focus on solving the biggest problems facing small businesses today.
 - 3) First-of-its-kind, new research on 100 CA businesses and their access to capital experiences. Lead by the Opportunity Fund, California's largest nonprofit small business lender.
 - 4) Who and how is the industry innovating to responsibly serve business needs? Lead by Funding Circle, a global marketplace for small business investment.
- Staff will be briefed on each topic of discussion by our panel of small business champions, followed by a question and answer period for all those in attendance.

Please join us for a discussion of what the state can do to make sure small businesses thrive.