JAYLEN BROWN TESTIMONY

Ranking Member, thank you for having me.

My name is Jaylen Brown. I play for the Boston Celtics, but I'm here today as the founder of the Boston XChange and co-founder of the Boston Creator Accelerator.

I want to talk about why the SPARK Act matters, not from a policy perspective, but from what I've seen firsthand in the communities I care about.

Why I Started Boston XChange

Over the years I've witnessed minority communities face challenges, not because people weren't talented or hardworking, but because the systems weren't built for us. Jobs disappear. Businesses close. Wealth continues to leave our neighborhoods instead of staying and circulating.

When I got to Boston, I wanted to do something different.

Not charity or a one-time donation.

I wanted to build infrastructure, a platform where people could own, create, and build businesses that last.

That's why I founded Boston XChange, to create pathways for entrepreneurs, artists, and creators to access the resources, networks, and support they need to succeed.

But I knew that alone wasn't enough.

Founders need mentorship. They need access to capital. They need partners who understand the barriers they're facing and can help them navigate.

That's why we partnered with Jrue and Lauren Holiday, MIT, Harvard Business School, and Suffolk University to create the Boston Creator Accelerator.

What We Built Together

The beauty of BCA is that it's not just one organization doing everything.

It's a collaboration.

MIT brought curriculum and technical expertise.
Harvard brought investor readiness training.
Suffolk brought legal support.
Jrue and Lauren brought learned experiences, funding, and a national lens.
Boston XChange provided the platform and long-term commitment.

Together, we supported 10 founders over multiple years, not a quick program, but sustained support.

Those founders have created jobs. They've built real businesses. And they've done it in communities such as Roxbury and Dorchester, communities that don't usually get this kind of investment.

What I've Learned

Real economic power comes from ownership.

Not just having a job, but owning the business. Owning the building. Owning the block.

When communities have the resources to build and capital circulates within the community instead of extracting out, that's when you create generational wealth, not just jobs.

But here's the reality: most communities don't have the infrastructure to make that happen.

Founders are out here grinding, taking the leap into entrepreneurship because they have to, not because they want to.

And we're asking them to do it without the support systems that make businesses succeed.

Why SPARK Matters

The SPARK Act is about changing that.

It would fund accelerators and incubators across the country, not for six months, but for five years, with the possibility of renewal.

It would require the kind of partnerships we built in Boston: universities, lenders, community organizations, working together.

And it would provide founders with access to capital, not just advice.

That's how you turn survival into sustainability; necessity into ownership.

When you invest in people and give them the infrastructure to succeed, not just a program, but real, sustained support, they build businesses that create jobs, wealth, and opportunity in their own communities.

The SPARK Act would make that possible nationwide.

Not in just one city. Everywhere.

It is an honor to be included in this historic moment, and we eagerly anticipate the success stories that the SPARK Act will ignite.

Thank you.