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MARKUP OF: H.R. 4256, "INVESTING IN MAIN STREET ACT OF 2021", H.R. 4481, "SMALL BUSINESS 7(A) LOAN AGENT TRANSPARENCY ACT", H.R. 4531, "7(A) LOAN AGENT OVERSIGHT ACT", H.R. 3469, "VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING ACT OF 2021", H.R. 3462, "SBA CYBER AWARENESS ACT", H.R. 4515, "SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER CYBER TRAINING ACT OF 2021", H.R. 4513, "SMALL BUSINESS ADVANCED CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2021"

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

HEARING HELD
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THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:01 a.m., in Room 2360 Rayburn House Office Building and via Zoom, Hon. Nydia Velázquez [chairwoman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Velázquez, Golden, Crow, Davids, Mfume, Phillips, Newman, Carter, Bourdeaux, Chu, Evans, Delgado, Houlahan, Andy Kim, Craig, Luetkemeyer, Williams, Stauber, Meuser, Tenney, Garbarino, Young Kim, Van Duyne, Donalds, and Fitzgerald.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Good morning. With a quorum being present, I call this morning's meeting of the Committee on Small Business to order. Without objection, the Chair is authorized to declare recess at any time.

I would like to begin by noting some important requirements. In accordance with the Attending Physician's most recent guidance, all Members and staff who attend this hybrid markup in person will be required to wear masks in the hearing room. Furthermore, all Members and staff who have not been fully vaccinated must also maintain 6-foot social distancing from others. With that said, Members will be allowed to briefly remove their masks if they have been recognized to speak.

As required by House rule, copies of the measures have been made available to Members and the public at least 24 hours in advance.

Today, we will be considering seven bipartisan bills that will make it easier for small business owners across America to launch and grow their small businesses. As we know, access to capital remains one of the biggest challenges facing small businesses today, and we will take up three bills to improve SBA programs to meet the capital needs for small firms.

Besides access to capital, cybersecurity is increasingly becoming a threat to entrepreneurial success. To that end, we will consider three bills to address the increasing and evolving cyber attacks aimed at small businesses.

Finally, we will also take up a bill to assist aspiring veteran entrepreneurs who have made many sacrifices for our country.

Before we get down to business, I would like to thank the Ranking Member, Mr. Leutkemeyer, for his collaboration on these seven bills, as well as the staff of the Small Business Committee from both sides. I look forward to working on many more. Our small businesses depend on our bipartisanship and cooperation now more than ever.

The seven bills that we are considering today are a product of the hearings and hard bipartisan work of our Members. I strongly support each of the seven bills to be marked up today.

I would like to recognize the distinguished Ranking Member, Mr. Leutkemeyer, for his opening statement.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair, for holding this markup. We believe that this legislation that we are talking about today will help strengthen our nation's job creators and the Small Business Administration's programs. The SBA, along with many other Federal agencies, raced to assist the nation as COVID-19 descended upon America.

Through the quick action taken by the Trump administration and Congress, numerous small business relief programs were created to help our nation's smallest firms survive the pandemic as well as the state and local shutdown orders that followed. Many of these programs included the Paycheck Protection Program, PPP, which proved to be a lifeline during many months of uncertainty. The PPP program also proved to be a major success through its partnership with private sector lenders to get money to a struggling small business more quickly and efficiently.

With that being said, while our country continues to move forward toward recovery, many of SBA's COVID programs are nearing completion. For example, nearly 11 million loans disbursed under PPP are now going through the PPP loan forgiveness process. Although the PPP has been and continues to be successful through private sector lending, other programs have been hampered with countless instances of fraud, bureaucratic delays, and constitutional questions.

According to the SBA's Inspector General, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan, EIDL program, which is a direct lending program through SBA, not private lenders, has been subject to rampant levels of fraud and abuse. Additionally, the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, SVOG program, has been plagued with inexcusable delays while the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Program, RRF, has been ruled unconstitutional due to biased priority groups the Democrats created in the enacting legislation.

Nevertheless, our nation's small businesses, entrepreneurs, and startups continue to face extreme obstacles throughout the recovery due to the Democrat-induced inflation, the looming labor crisis, and the potential for increased taxes for the middle class. These headwinds are putting main street, USA's recovery in jeopardy. We must fix these issues to protect the American worker.

On that note, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues today and going forward to discuss pro-growth policies that will produce an environment where small businesses can operate independently without the government standing in their way. While we have these debates it is critical that we also ensure the SBA's traditional programs are operating efficiently and effectively, and that is what bring us to today's markup.

In a bipartisan fashion, Members on both sides of the aisle have considered and have identified areas where this Committee can adjust existing SBA programs to better position small businesses. Many of these bills were in the works in previous sessions of Congress, but some take a new approach to provide increased oversight of the SBA's programs. With the SBA's lending programs, the Small Business Investment Company, SBIC, continues to provide small businesses across the United States with access to capital. Today's SBIC legislation will provide even more access to capital by examining the role of banks and other savings institutions within the program.

Beyond the SBIC program we have two bills that examine the role of loan agents within the SBA's 7(a) Loan Program. The 7(a) Loan Program, the SBA's largest traditional lending tool which provides access to capital for small businesses that cannot find it elsewhere, as the SBA continues to use more loan agents within their programs, it is essential that the agency has a clear view of how these agents operate.

According to an October 2020 report, the SBA's Inspector General stated, "Previous OIG audits and investigations have shown SBA could not effectively identify and track loan agent involvement in its 7(a) and 504 Loan programs or portfolios and have outdated enforcement regulations. OIG investigations have also revealed a pattern of fraud by loan packagers and other fee-based agents in the 7(a) Loan Program involving hundreds of millions of dollars."

The bills before by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Meuser, and the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. Phillips, will focus on loan agents and examine the SBA's oversight capabilities. The discussion of loan agents will not end today. I look forward to exploring their role within this program and other SBA programs moving forward.

When it comes to our veterans, the Boots to Business Program is an important resource available to the men and women who have valiantly served our country. I commend the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Williams, and the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Schneider, for continuing the Boots to Business effort during the 117th Congress.

Lastly, the Committee will examine three separate cybersecurity bills that will address the needs of small businesses as well as ensuring that SBA has a safe and sound cyber infrastructure network. As we all heard at our cyber hearing last week, America's

smallest firms are increasingly vulnerable to the exploits of cybercriminals. Often a cyber attack on a small business results in a permanent operational damage to its ecosystem. We must have the structure in place to assist these small businesses through difficult times and educate small business owners on the tools available to protect them from these cyber attacks.

Again, I would like to thank the Chair for bringing these bills to the Committee. I support the approach taken by the Committee Members to address these issues.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields back.

Before we get into the individual bills, are there any Members present who seek recognition for the purpose of making an opening statement?

Seeing none, we will move to consideration of H.R. 4256, the "Investing in Main Street Act of 2021," introduced by Congresswoman Chu and cosponsored by Congressman Garbarino. This bill will harmonize the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's national bank charter percentage requirements.

I would now like to recognize the gentlewoman from California, Ms. Chu, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

Ms. CHU. Thank you, Chairwoman Velázquez and Ranking Member Luetkemeyer for your support of this legislation. Also, thank you to my colleague, Representative Garbarino, for your partnership.

The Investing in Main Street Act would make a simple commonsense change to small business investing laws to ensure that SBA-certified small business investment centers, or SBICs, can take full advantage of capital available from traditional banks and federal saving associations. Even though banking rules allow financial institutions to invest up to 15 percent of their capital and surplus in SBICs, small business investing rules prevent that. The Small Business Investment Act caps these investments far lower at just 5 percent of capital and surplus. The Investing in Main Street Act amends this outdated law to ensure that banks can invest the full 15 percent in SBICs, a simple change that will dramatically increase the amount of investment capital available to our country's small businesses.

By raising this cap, this legislation will deliver more investments and more financing to our small businesses for whom even small investments can mean so much. Already SBICs have helped companies like Tesla, Apple, and Intel get off the ground back when they were considered small businesses. They fill a gap in the investment ecosystem and level the playing field by providing equity investments and financing opportunities to the smallest businesses which face the highest barriers to secure investments from traditional private investors.

In fact, in fiscal year 2020, SBICs made nearly a quarter of their financing to underserved businesses and the nearly 300 certified SBICs in operation today have invested or committed $32 billion in small businesses nationwide. Last year, in my state of California alone, SBICs made nearly 300 financings totaling over $670 mil-

lion. By raising the investment cap from 5 percent to 15 percent, we could potentially triple those numbers in the years to come. That growth will be so important as our country faces a long economic recovery ahead of us, especially as the Delta variant threatens to erase some of the hard-earned gains we made this spring and summer.

America's small businesses have endured one of the most challenging periods in our country's history and now is the time to help them rebuild and grow. The Investing in Main Street Act would do just that. I urge the Committee to vote yes on this critical legislation, and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentlewoman yields back. I would now like to recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. Garbarino, for an opening statement.

Mr. GARBARINO. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you Ranking Member for holding today's markup on all the bills before us. I would also like to thank Representative Judy Chu from California for joining forces with me to better support the SBA's Small Business Investment Company program.

The SBIC program is a unique tool that provides private equity capital to small businesses in a prudent way. In fiscal year 2020, the program helped finance over 1,000 small businesses and supported over 91,000 jobs, all while running on zero cost subsidy to the American taxpayer.

However, as this program advances, its rules regarding the role of banks and savings associations are becoming increasingly outdated. H.R. 4256, the "Investing in Main Street Act of 2021," will update these rules by addressing how much money a bank or other savings institutions can invest in an SBIC from 5 percent to 15 percent. Importantly, with any investment above 5 percent a bank or savings institution would need the approval from its federal financial regulator in order to proceed.

The changes within H.R. 4256 would also level the SBIC rules with longstanding requirements at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. The SBIC program has the ability to play an important role in the long-term outlook for small businesses, but Congress must modernize its rules to keep pace. H.R. 4256 delivers modernization and provides further access to capital for small businesses in my district in New York and beyond. I look forward to continuing with my counterparts to ensure this bill makes progress and is sent to the House floor swiftly.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 4256?

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to thank the gentlelady from California, Ms. Chu, and the gentleman from New York, Mr. Garbarino, for working on this legislation in the 117th Congress.

The changes reflected in H.R. 4256 will address and update how banks and savings institutions operate within the SBIC program. As we continue to examine the post COVID-19 small business environment it will be critically important to ensure the existing SBA

program are ready for recovery. H.R. 4256 is a step in the right direction. The Investing in Main Street Act passed the House in the last two Congresses and I look forward to working with the Chair to ensure it passes again and moves forward all the way to the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4256.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. I would now like to recognize myself briefly.

Improving access to capital has been a top priority of mine and it is important that SBA programs and rules governing them are consistent, especially if multiple agencies have issued similar guidance. This bill improves SBA access to capital programs by harmonizing the statutory provisions of the Small Business Investment Act with similar regulations published by the OCC.

Thank you, Ms. Chu and Mr. Garbarino, for reintroducing this bill. I am pleased to support it and I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 4256. The clerk will report the bill.

H.R. 4256

The CLERK. H.R. 4256, "Investing in Main Street Act of 2021"——

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Without objection, H.R. 4256 is considered as read and open for amendment at any time. Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 4256.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4256 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 4256 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4256 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes. Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

H.R. 4481

Our second bill today is H.R. 4481, the "Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act," introduced by Congressman Phillips and cosponsored by Congressman Meuser. This bill will establish a registration system for 7(a) agents by assigning them a unique identifier. It allows SBA to collect data to help track and evaluate the performance of loans generated through loan agent activity.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. Phillips, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Thank you, Chairwoman Velázquez, and greetings to my colleagues. Let me just begin quickly. I know it is in vogue to criticize one party, Democrats, for inflation right now. I want to remind everybody that after an economy is shut down because of a pandemic we should expect inflation. I think as Mem-

bers of the Small Business Committee having a markup today, we should be celebrating the fact that our GDP in the United States of America now exceeds pre-pandemic levels. Let us do a little celebrating in a Committee that surely should on a day like this.

I want to speak to H.R. 4481 and urge support of the bill, the "Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act." The Small Business Administration 7(a) Loan Guarantee Program is the agency's flagship loan program. In fiscal year 2020, the SBA approved over 42,000 7(a) loans, totaling nearly $22.6 billion.

The SBA also administered several subprograms within 7(a) that offers streamlined and expedited loan procedures for particular groups of borrowers, including the SBA Express and Community Advantage Pilot Programs. It was on this framework that Congress first established the Paycheck Protection Program, which has been responsible for extending more than $790 billion in relief to small businesses throughout the United States in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Together these programs work to fulfill the SBA's mission of aiding and protecting the interests of small businesses, particularly those that might not otherwise obtain financing under reasonable terms and conditions.

The capital provided by the 7(a) program supports small businesses seeking to purchase real estate, equipment, and supplies to provide short- and long-term working capital or to refinance current business debt. Its importance cannot be overstated.

In February of 2020, this Committee held a hearing to examine the management of SBA's Office of Credit Risk Management, which is responsible for the oversight of SBA lenders and its 7(a) loan portfolio. During the hearing OCRM's director testified that SBA lacks a way to uniquely identify and systemically track loan agent activity. Instead, they must rely on self-reported lender reviews to obtain information about 7(a) agents.

Without these unique identifiers there is very little data that is collected about those responsible for the processing billions and billions in taxpayer funds and working with small businesses across the country. This can potentially place small businesses at risk and is an opportunity for the adoption of a bipartisan commonsense solution to help protect the hard-earned resources of Americans.

The "Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act" would require OCRM to establish a registration system for 7(a) agents that collects data to help OCRM track and evaluate performance of loans generated through agent activity. OCRM will need to establish a database with the type of services performed by 7(a) agents and require the registration before an agent provides services to a lender or borrower. These provisions will improve enforcement and oversight actions and will address the increased risk introduced by loan agents, which has been cited as one of the top management and performance challenges facing SBA.

While on this topic of strengthening oversight for the 7(a) program, I would also like to briefly speak in support of the bill from my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Meuser, his "7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act." That bill is a companion to my own and would require OCRM to submit a report to Congress on the performance of loans that are generated through agent activity and any risks involved in that work. I applause and celebrate Mr.

Meuser's leadership on this legislation and look forward to voting in favor of it this morning as well.

I want to thank the Chairwoman, the Ranking Member, and the Small Business Committee majority and minority staffs for working so diligently with us on this legislation. I also want to thank my friend and colleague Mr. Meuser for his support and coauthorship of the bill. Finally, to extent my gratitude to our cosponsors, Reps. Donalds, Garbarino, Tenney, Salazar, and Oversight Ranking Member Van Duyne.

I urge the Committee to adopt this measure and its companion H.R. 4531, and report them favorably to the House.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would now like to recognize the cosponsor of the bill, Congressman Meuser, for an opening statement.

Mr. MEUSER. Well, thank you very much, Madam Chair, for holding this markup to evaluate a number of these very important bills that are very crucial, we feel, to the small business ecosystem.

As we examine access for capital for small businesses it is imperative that we also look at the SBA's existing 7(a) Loan Program, as we are. I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Minnesota, for his leadership as well and for working with me on the role agents will pay within this program. Thank you, Mr. Phillips.

I do look forward to working in a bipartisan manner to ensure the SBA has the correct level of oversight in place for the growing population of agents within its flagship 7(a) Loan Program, as we all understand how important this is.

So, I thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 4481?

I now recognize the Ranking Member for an opening statement.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. The utilization and role of loan agents within the SBA's government-guaranteed lending programs is critically important. This bill and H.R. 4531 will spark an important conversation on whether SBA has its eyes on who is participating in these programs. I have been told of many problems with loan agents and we are going to have to take a hard look at the role and activities of loan agents. Proper administration oversight of these programs will remain a high priority of mine as this Congress moves forward.

I want to thank both gentlemen for working on these bills and proposing solutions. I urge my colleagues to support the bill in front of us today. I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. Thank you. I would now like to recognize myself briefly.

Our Committee has consistently heard from the agency's watchdog about the increased risk associated with loans originated through agent activity.

In October 2020, SBA's IG identified increased risk introduced by loan agents as one of the top management and performance challenges facing the agency in this fiscal year. This bill sets up a reg-

istry for loan agents at SBA to help the agency monitor loan performance for loans that originated with agents.

I want to really thank Mr. Phillips for introducing this bill and I am pleased to support it. I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 4481. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. "H.R. 4481, the Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act."

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Without objection, H.R. 4481 is considered as read and open for an amendment at any point. Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 4481.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4481 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 4481 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4481 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes. Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

H.R. 4531

The next bill under consideration is H.R. 4531, the "7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act," introduced by Congressman Meuser and cosponsored by Congressman Phillips. This bill will require an annual report by SBA on the performance of and risks associated with loans generated through loan agent activity.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Meuser, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

Mr. MEUSER. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. As I mentioned earlier, it is imperative that the SBA has the oversight capabilities in place to manage its access to capital programs. With that in mind, Congress must be in a position to determine if congressional intent is being followed. Without accurate information we cannot perform that oversight that is so needed to safeguard and protect American taxpayer dollars.

While Mr. Phillips' bill, H.R. 4481, takes the steps to ensure the SBA can track the role of agents within the SBA's largest traditional lending program, my bill, H.R. 4531, the "7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act," will ensure Congress receives the data it needs to conduct proper oversight. H.R. 4531 would provide information on how many loans have been processed with the assistance of loan agents and the default rates of loans that are associated with loan agents.

Additionally, the legislation requires the SBA to perform a risk analysis on agents who operate within the program. At the end of the day, these are government programs that were developed to assist main street, USA for access to capital. Given this important mission, Congress and the SBA must conduct the appropriate level

of oversight. The information that will be provided to Congress under H.R. 4531 will be paramount as we measure the effectiveness of these programs and whether the SBA has the correct oversight requirements in place to administer such a significant program.

As more small businesses utilize the SBA's programs, it is increasingly important for Congress to understand how different groups assist small businesses and lenders through the lending process.

Madam Chair, thank you for bringing these bills forward and I look forward to working with my colleagues to further enhance the small business environment in Pennsylvania and across the nation. I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

Are there any other Members who wishes to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 4531?

I will now recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. SBA's Inspector General has spoken clearly on loan agents within the SBA programs. The bills before us today heed the warnings of the Inspector General, who lists loan agents as a top management and performance challenge for the agency. With documented fraud totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, H.R. 4531 will shed light on what is truly happening within this program and provide Members of Congress the information they need to continue to safeguard these programs.

I look forward to examining the role of loan agents within the traditional programs of SBA and the COVID relief programs that were created and activated during the pandemic. I commend Ranking Member Meuser of the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access for crafting this legislation with Chairman Phillips of the Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations Subcommittee.

Madam Chair, with that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4531, and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Now I would like to recognize myself briefly.

To complement the loan agent registration established under Mr. Phillips' bill it is important for the agency to also report back to Congress and the public on the performance of this loan. This bill requires such a report on an annual basis.

I want to thank Mr. Meuser for introducing this bill and I am pleased to support it. I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 4531. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 4531, the 7(a) Loan Agent Oversight——

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Without objection, H.R. 4531 is considered as read and open for amendment at any time.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 4531.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4531 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 4531 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4531 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes. Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

H.R. 3469

We will now move on to H.R. 3469 introduced by Congressman Schneider and cosponsored by Congressman Williams. H.R. 3469 makes improvements to SBA's Boots to Business program as well as offering certainty to transitioning veterans by authorizing the program for 5 years.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Williams, for an opening statement.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Madam Chair. I represent Fort Hood, one of the largest military bases in the world, and it is a great honor to fight on behalf of these brave individuals every day in Washington. Our veterans and servicemembers play a vital role in our entrepreneurship economy.

These honorable men and women who served their country deserve to be equipped with the training and expertise to make a successful career transition from the military. Many of them already have the leadership. They have got problem-solving, their communications skills are the best, and we have in the armed forces skills that translate well into entrepreneurial and business success.

The Boots to Business entrepreneurial education and training program administered by the SBA's Veterans Business Outreach Centers is a valuable resource for transitioning servicemembers looking to start their own businesses. This program is about more than just getting a job. It is about getting a career and that is what is important, and ensuring our veterans can successfully transition from the battlefield to the business world.

That is why I am proud to co-lead with Congressman Schneider the "Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2021," which codifies the Boots to Business program for 5 years. It will provide our veterans and military families with a curriculum to lead them through key steps for creating business concepts and give them the foundational knowledge to bring their plan into fruition.

Additionally, this legislation facilitates the sharing of materials with Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to include on their websites, manuals, and local facilities and further expand the impact of this program. This legislation passed the House with almost unanimous support last Congress and I urge my colleagues to support our veteran entrepreneurs again this Congress with H.R. 3469.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield my time back.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I would like to enter into the record Mr. Schneider's statement. Without objection, his statement is entered for the record.

I would like to recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. It is an honor to support legislation that empowers our veterans in their quest for entrepreneurship. Last year, the Boots to Business program supported over 20,000 veterans, servicemembers, and military spouses worldwide through the Introduction to Entrepreneurship course.

Our servicemembers are our nation's best and brightest, and this bipartisan legislation will codify the Boots to Business program for 5 years to further assist transitioning servicemembers in launching and growing their own small businesses.

With that, Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues support and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. I now would like to recognize myself briefly.

Starting a business after leaving military service provides an opportunity for veterans to not only build a new career, but to secure their livelihoods. Authorizing the Boots to Business program for the next 5 years will provide more than 18,000 new servicemembers each year with the counseling, training, and technical assistance necessary to launch and grow their small businesses.

The skills they develop in the military—leadership, perseverance, resourcefulness, and discipline—make them ideal business owners. They are dedicated to their local communities and play a critical role in boosting economic growth.

I want to thank Representative Schneider and Representative Williams for their bipartisan work on this bill. I urge a yes vote for those military servicemembers who have served this country honorably.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 3469. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 3469——

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Without objection, H.R. 3469 is considered as read and open for amendment at any time.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 3469.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 3469 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 3469 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 3469 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes. Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

H.R. 3462

We will now consider H.R. 3462, the "SBA Cyber Awareness Act," introduced by Congressman Crow and cosponsored by Congresswoman Young Kim. This bill directs the SBA to issue reports on its cybersecurity infrastructure and in the event of cyber threats, breaches, and cyber attacks at the agency.

I would now like to recognize Congressman Crow from Colorado, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

Mr. CROW. Madam Chairwoman, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of H.R. 3462, the "SBA Cyber Awareness Act."

Our small businesses are the backbone of our economy, but are increasingly the target of cyber attacks and theft of data and intellectual property. Unfortunately, federal agencies are not immune to such attacks either. According to the SBA's Office of the Inspector General, IT security is one of the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency in more than 20 years.

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented demand for relief programs, like PPP and EIDL, have overwhelmed SBA's legacy systems. As a result, the glitch in the EIDL application system led to an exposure of personal information of over 8,000 applicants with no public announcement of the data breach until weeks later.

The SBA Cyber Awareness Act would direct the SBA to issue an annual report assessing its cybersecurity infrastructure. The bill also requires the SBA to report cyber threats, breaches, and cyber attacks to the committees of jurisdiction and notify affected individuals within 30 days of an incident.

Cyber attacks are one of the biggest threats to our economy and small businesses. This bill would ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect the millions of small businesses the SBA serves and prepare them for 21st century threats.

I urge my colleagues to support the "SBA Cyber Awareness Act" and I thank the Chairwoman for the opportunity to speak on its behalf, and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Now I would like to recognize the gentlelady from California, Ms. Kim, for an opening statement. She is the cosponsor of the bill.

Ms. YOUNG KIM. Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to be recognized to talk in support of the bill, H.R. 3462. I want to thank the Chairwoman and Ranking Member for holding this important markup.

I appreciate our Committee's focus on cybersecurity with the hearing last Tuesday as well as today with several cybersecurity bills before us. One of the discussion points raised in last Tuesday's cybersecurity hearing was the concern small businesses have with the government's own cybersecurity measures. Many of us sitting in this room have been the victims of a cyber attack on a government agency, like the OPM data breach in 2015. We know how critical it is for the government to protect its networks and safeguard our own personal information that we disclose to the government. This is important data, like our birthdays and Social Security numbers.

Fifty percent of small businesses with 500 or less employees say that it is likely that they will experience a cyber attack in the next 12 months. One in four are experiencing more cyber attacks com-

pared to a year ago. That is why I am voicing my support for H.R. 3462, the "SBA Cyber Awareness Act." I want to thank my colleague and my friend, Mr. Crow, for working with me on this important legislation. The "SBA Cyber Awareness Act" promotes transparency within the SBA, so that Congress and affected individuals with data housed in SBA systems are timely notified in the event of a cyber incident.

When the SBA discovered a flaw in its EIDL application system, leading to the exposure of personal information for up to 8,000 individuals, the agency failed to make any public announcement of the breach. It was not until weeks later that the SBA notified affected individuals or even Members of Congress. This was simply unacceptable and I believe the urgent necessity of this legislation is very clear.

In addition to timely notification, the bipartisan bill requires an annual cybersecurity report from the SBA, detailing any cyber incidents and remediation efforts undertaken as well as an assessment of the SBA's information technology and cybersecurity infrastructure. Such measures can only enhance the cybersecurity measures in place at the SBA and may even eleviate some of the concerns small business owners and entrepreneurs might have in engaging with the agency.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on H.R. 3462?

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. The government arguably has the greatest responsibility of any entity in this country to protect its data and implement robust cybersecurity protections. The SBA is a part of that. Small business owners depend on the SBA to keep the personal information that they have disclosed safe and secure. This legislation contains the necessary accountability and transparency measures small businesses need when interacting with the federal government. I support the bipartisan bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. I would now like to recognize myself briefly.

For more than 20 years, the SBA's Office of Inspector General has listed IT security as one of the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency. The demand for the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan programs inundated SBA's legacy system, leading to backend system crashes, portals operating slowly, and a glitch that led to a data breach of applicants' personal information. SBA failed to make any public announcement about the data breach. It took weeks for the agency to send paper notifications to affected individuals.

We trust that SBA has taken the necessary steps to recover, but we want a notification system in place before the next cybersecurity incident. This bill sets new reporting requirements to ensure congressional and public awareness.

I want to thank Mr. Crow and Mrs. Young Kim for this vital legislation. I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consider H.R. 3462. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 3462——

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Without objection, H.R. 3462 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 3462.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 3462 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 3462 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 3462 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes. Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

H.R. 4515

We will now consider H.R. 4515, the "Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2021," introduced by Congressman Garbarino and cosponsored by Mr. Evans, Ms. Houlahan, and Mr. Chabot. This bill helps Small Business Development Centers become better equipped to assist small entities with their cybersecurity needs.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. Garbarino, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

Mr. GARBARINO. Thank you, Chairwoman. The use of information technology in this modern age is inescapable. We rely on it to do everything from the mundane to the miraculous. This can, however, be a double-edged sword.

As indispensable as it is to our everyday lives, it also exposes us to a host of new vulnerabilities. Just a few short weeks ago, a series of widely reported ransomware attacks caused significant disruption and damage to thousands of individuals and businesses, including small businesses.

Cyber criminals are, unfortunately, targeting small businesses precisely because of their lack of knowledge and awareness of proper cyber hygiene as a result of weak and nonexistent cybersecurity measures. The outcome of a cyber attack can be catastrophic for small business owners, leaving many unable to recover from the loss of their intellectual property and resources. This is why this legislation introduced by myself, Congressman Evan, Congresswoman Houlahan, and former Ranking Member Chabot is so critical. Congressman Phillips and Congresswoman Tenney are also cosponsors and they are on this Committee and I want to thank them.

H.R. 4515, the "Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2021," utilizes the far reach and resources of the

SBDCs across the country to assist small businesses with planning and implementing cybersecurity measures to defend against cyber attacks. This bipartisan bill establishes a cyber counseling certification program for SBDC staff to ensure that they are properly educated and trained on the latest cyber threat developments, so that the information may be shared with small businesses seeking assistance from the SBDCs.

The cyber assistance offered by trained SBDC staff would be provided at no or low cost to small businesses. By leveraging the expertise of SBDCs and their partner agencies, small businesses can take a more proactive and defensive approach to cybersecurity. Understanding that this will require resources, the legislation authorizes the SBA to reimburse SBDCs for employee certification costs up to $350,000 per fiscal year.

The bill also utilizes existing federal resources to cover the reimbursement costs. Small businesses are in dire need of assistance to combat rapidly evolving cyber threats and this commonsense, bipartisan legislation will help them get there.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Evans.

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Madam Chair and Ranking Member. And thank you, Madam Chair, for your leadership of this Committee. Thank you for what you have done and I thank my co-leaders in terms of this particular issue.

As you know, I consider small businesses to be the foundation of our community. They are the engines that drive innovation, inventiveness, investments, and economic development. They are the pillars that prop up our community.

Yet, as technology makes things easier, it is also open to vulnerabilities. The same tools that are making our lives better are also making our personal information easier to access for both good and bad actors. The FBI 2020 Cyber Crime Report showed that attacks on business email accounts cost $1 trillion and this doesn't represent the future picture. As many businesses do not report these cyber attacks, around 60 percent of firms go out of business within 6 months after a data breach.

However, good cybersecurity does not come cheap. It can cost tens of thousands of dollars to establish a good defense against cyber attacks. Because of the evolving world of cyber threats, cybersecurity is an ongoing cost. As a result, it is critical we help our small businesses that are the backbone of our nation's economy and ensure that they are given the training they need to defend themselves from cyber attacks.

I thank you, Madam Chair and Ranking Member, for your leadership on this, and I yield back. Back to you.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. Now I recognize the gentlelady from Pennsylvania, Ms. Houlahan, cosponsor of the bill.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to make the following really clear to everyone on this Committee and the American people if it hasn't been already clear, if we aren't protecting our small businesses, then we are not protecting our economy. The

rise in cyber attacks against our economic infrastructure should be the cause for very serious alarm. We need to be doing everything our power to not only shore up our defenses, but also to equip our small businesses and business owners with the tools that they need to be able to defend their businesses.

I am really proud to partner with Representative Chabot, Evans, and Garbarino on this effort to support the passage of the Small Business Development Center, or SBDC, Cyber Training Act of 2021. We have to ensure that SBDCs are equipped to help our nation's small businesses and that they have the resources and the guidance that they need to respond to cyber threats. I urge my colleagues to join me in full support of this bill.

Thank you and I yield back, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. The gentlewoman yields back. Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on this bill? I recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. It is abundantly clear that no business, regardless of size or the amount of available resources, is 100 percent safe from cyber threats. If large businesses can become victims of cybercrimes, small businesses are even more vulnerable.

This bipartisan legislation will make it possible for small businesses to receive guidance and counseling from the SBDCs on the most up-to-date cybersecurity practices at virtually no cost. This is exactly what small businesses need. I urge my colleagues' support.

Madam Chair, with that, I yield back.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. I would like to make a statement myself.

Small businesses are especially vulnerable to cyber attacks due to limited resources and technical knowledge. SBDCs are ready, willing, and able to fill this gap. H.R. 4515 will establish a cyber counseling certification program in SBDCs to provide specific, free-of-charge cyber training for small businesses.

Congress and the SBA must meet the demand for cybersecurity training and resources. Thank you to my colleagues for reintroducing this bill. I urge a yes vote.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of H.R. 4515. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 4515, the Small Business Development——

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Without objection, H.R. 4515 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 4515.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4515 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 4515 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4515 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes. Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

H.R. 4513

We will now take up the bill on the final bill on the agenda, H.R. 4513, the "Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2021," introduced by Congressman Donalds and myself, Congresswoman Houlahan, and Congressman Chabot. This bill will provide additional resources and protection for small employers and encourage good faith collaboration with the federal government.

I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Donalds, the sponsor of the bill, for an opening statement.

Mr. DONALDS. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you as well, Ranking Member. I would also like to thank you, Madam Chair, for holding last Tuesday's Committee hearing on the cybersecurity posture of America's small businesses. The testimony we heard from the witnesses made it abundantly clear that having a consistent, rapid flow of information between the private and public sectors is critical in the fight against cybercrime. Because small businesses are targeted by cybercriminals nearly half of the time, these businesses collectively have a wealth of critical information that could be utilized to identify, prevent, and mitigate future attacks.

Unfortunately, as we learned in the hearing, small businesses are often reluctant to disclose to anyone, especially the government, any information about cyber attacks that may have been sustained. This ultimately leaves our national cybersecurity posture in a weakened state and vulnerable to attack.

The federal government has recognized this dilemma and has taken steps to both prevent and mitigate cyber attacks on small businesses. However, small business reluctance and unwillingness to engage still exists.

We must give small businesses the confidence that they need to engage with the federal agencies tasked with protecting them, which is why the Chairwoman and I, along with Congresswoman Houlahan and former Ranking Member Chabot introduced H.R. 4513, the "Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2021." This bipartisan legislation safeguards small businesses from cyber attacks by establishing the Small Business Development Centers as a primary liaison for information sharing for small businesses seeking to report cyber threats.

This bill authorizes the free flow of information from the SBDCs to cybersecurity experts at the Department of Homeland Security and, importantly, expands the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, or CISA, protections for small businesses. By expanding liability protections and giving small businesses a readily accessible and local resource to tap into when dealing with cyber threats, the bill removes many of the barriers small business owners are facing when confronted with a cyber attack.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. Are there any other Members who wish to be recognized for a statement on this bill? I would like to recognize the Ranking Member.

Mr. LEUTKEMEYER. Thank you, Madam Chair. Cybercrime is a booming industry and cybercriminals are strongly incentivized to come up with new methods of attack. We know when small businesses are attacked they may be reluctant to disclose such information to the government agencies tasked with helping them. The more we know, the better prepared we can be, both defensively and offensively, against future cyber attacks. H.R. 4513 encourages small businesses to work with the federal government instead of fearing it.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill before us. With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. The gentleman yields back. Thank you. I would now like to recognize myself.

Protecting our nation from malicious cyber actors is a top priority of this Committee. It is vital that the federal government work closely with the private sector, not just the large corporations and contractors, but also the small firms that drive our supply chains. Everyone has a role to play.

Last week, experts detailed the cybersecurity landscape for small firms and the tangled web of public and private support mechanisms. This bill facilitates regular collaboration between small businesses and the federal government, and ultimately fortifies our nation's cyber defenses.

Thank you, Mr. Donalds, for reintroducing this bill. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

If there is no further discussion, the Committee will move on to consideration of 4513. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 4513——

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Without objection, H.R. 4513 is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Does anyone seek recognition to offer an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is now on H.R. 4513.

All in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4513 is agreed to.

The question now occurs on reporting H.R. 4513 favorably to the House.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and H.R. 4513 is reported to the House.

Without objection, Committee staff is authorized to correct punctuation and make other necessary technical corrections and conforming changes. Without objection, Members have 2 business days to file additional supplemental, dissenting, and minority views.

I want to thank all of the Members for their participation today. If there is no further business to come before the Committee, without objection, this meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:02 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4256

To amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHU (for herself and Mr. GARBARINO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Investing in Main Street Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. INVESTMENT IN SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Section 302(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 682(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period the following: "or, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, 15 percent of such capital and surplus";

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period the following: "or, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, 15 percent of such capital and surplus"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'appropriate Federal banking agency' has the meaning given that term under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.".

.....

(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4481

To amend the Small Business Act to establish requirements for 7(a) agents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself and Mr. MEUSER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish requirements for 7(a) agents, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR 7(a) AGENTS.

(a) OFFICE OF CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT DUTIES.—Section 47(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657t(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) any 7(a) agent.".

(b) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—

(2) OFFICE OF CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT.—Section 47(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657t(e)) is amended by inserting "or 7(a) agent" after "7(a) lender" each place such term appears.

(3) LENDER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.—Section 48(c)(2) of the Small Business Act is amended by striking "and any Lending Partner or Intermediary participant" and inserting ", any 7(a) agent (as defined in section 47), or any Lending Partner or Intermediary participant".

(c) REGISTRATION SYSTEM.—Section 47 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657t) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(j) REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR 7(a) AGENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a registration system for 7(a) agents that assigns a unique identifier to each 7(a) agent and collects data

necessary for the Director to submit the report required under paragraph (4).

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A 7(a) agent shall—

"(A) register in the system established under paragraph (1) before providing covered services to a lender or applicant; and

"(B) effective 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, submit an annual fee for such registration to the Director.

"(3) DATABASE.—The Director shall establish and maintain an electronic database of the types of covered services provided by each 7(a) agent.

"(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) 7(A) AGENT.—The term '7(a) agent' means a person who provides covered services on behalf of a lender or applicant.

"(2) COVERED SERVICES.—The term 'covered services' means—

"(A) assistance with completing an application for a loan under section 7(a) (including preparing a business plan, cash flow projections, financial statements, and related documents); or

"(B) consulting, broker, or referral services with respect to a loan under section 7(a).".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4531

To amend the Small Business Act to require a report on 7(a) agents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MEUSER (for himself and Mr. PHILLIPS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to require a report on 7(a) agents, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON 7(a) AGENTS.

Section 47 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657t) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(j) ANNUAL REPORT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall submit to Congress, in addition to the report required under subsection (h)(2), an annual report including, for the calendar year covered by the report—

"(A) the number of 7(a) agents assisting applicants for loans under section 7(a), disaggregated by 7(a) agents who are attorneys, accountants, consultants, packagers, and lender service providers (as defined by section 103.1 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations);

"(B) the number of fraudulent loans made for which an applicant used services of a 7(a) agent;

"(C) the purchase rate by the Administrator of loans for which an applicant used services of a 7(a) agent;

"(D) the number and aggregate dollar value of referral fees paid to 7(a) agents, disaggregated by whether the applicant or 7(a) lender paid such fees;

"(E) without identifying individual 7(a) agents by name, a consolidated analysis of the risk created by the individual 7(a) agents responsible for not less than 1 percent of—

"(i) the dollar value of loans made with the assistance of 7(a) agents; and

"(ii) the number of loans made with the assistance of 7(a) agents;

"(F) an analysis of interest rates on loans for which an applicant or 7(a) lender used services of an agent; and

"(G) a description of how the Administrator communicates with 7(a) agents.

"(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) 7(A) AGENT.—The term '7(a) agent' means a person who provides covered services on behalf of a lender or applicant.

"(B) COVERED SERVICES.—The term 'covered services' means—

"(i) assistance with completing an application for a loan under section 7(a) (including preparing a business plan, cash flow projections, financial statements, and related documents); or

"(ii) consulting, broker, or referral services with respect to a loan under section 7(a).".

[116H3537__RFS]

.....

(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3469

To amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M__. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

"(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered individual' means—

"(A) a member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves;

"(B) an individual who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program established under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code;

"(C) an individual who—

"(i) served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves; and

"(ii) was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable; and

"(D) a spouse or dependent of an individual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Beginning on the first October 1 after the enactment of this subsection and for the subsequent 4 fiscal years, the Administrator shall carry out a program to be known as the 'Boots to Business Program' to provide entrepreneurship training to covered individuals.

"(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Business Program are to—

"(A) provide assistance and in-depth training to covered individuals interested in business ownership; and

"(B) provide covered individuals with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, identify sources of capital, connect with local resources for small business concerns, and start up a small business concern.

"(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Business Program may include—

"(i) a presentation providing exposure to the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

"(ii) an online, self-study course focused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship, the language of business, and the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

"(iii) an in-person classroom instruction component providing an introduction

to the foundations of self employment and ownership of a small business concern; and

"(iv) in-depth training delivered through online instruction, including an online course that leads to the creation of a business plan.

"(B) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator may—

"(i) collaborate with public and private entities to develop course curricula for the Boots to Business Program; and

"(ii) modify program components in coordination with entities participating in a Warriors in Transition program, as defined in section 738(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

"(C) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

"(I) ensure that Veteran Business Outreach Centers regularly participate, on a nationwide basis, in the Boots to Business Program; and

"(II) to the maximum extent practicable, use a variety of other resource partners and entities in administering the Boots to Business Program.

"(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out clause (i), the Administrator may make grants to Veteran Business Outreach Centers, other resource partners, or other entities to carry out components of the Boots to Business Program.

"(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make available to the Secretary of Defense information regarding the Boots to Business Program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, for inclusion on the website of the Department of Defense relating to the Transition Assistance Program, in the Transition Assistance Program manual, and in other relevant materials available for distribution from the Secretary of Defense.

"(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of

Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make available for distribution and display at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs outreach materials regarding the Boots to Business Program which shall, at a minimum—

"(i) describe the Boots to Business Program and the services provided; and

"(ii) include eligibility requirements for participating in the Boots to Business Program.

"(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program, which may be included as part of another report submitted to such Committees by the Administrator, and which shall include—

"(A) information regarding grants awarded under paragraph (4)(C);

"(B) the total cost of the Boots to Business Program;

"(C) the number of program participants using each component of the Boots to Business Program;

"(D) the completion rates for each component of the Boots to Business Program;

"(E) to the extent possible—

"(i) the demographics of program participants, to include gender, age, race, relationship to military, military occupational specialty, and years of service of program participants;

"(ii) the number of small business concerns formed or expanded with assistance under the Boots to Business Program;

"(iii) the gross receipts of small business concerns receiving assistance under the Boots to Business Program;

"(iv) the number of jobs created with assistance under the Boots to Business Program;

"(v) the number of referrals to other resources and programs of the Administration;

"(vi) the number of program participants receiving financial assistance under loan programs of the Administration;

"(vii) the type and dollar amount of financial assistance received by program participants under any loan program of the Administration; and

"(viii) results of participant satisfaction surveys, including a summary of any comments received from program participants;

"(F) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program in each region of the Administration during the most recent fiscal year;

"(G) an assessment of additional performance outcome measures for the Boots to Business Program, as identified by the Administrator;

"(H) any recommendations of the Administrator for improvement of the Boots to Business Program, which may include expansion of the types of individuals who are covered individuals;

"(I) an explanation of how the Boots to Business Program has been integrated with other transition programs and related resources of the Administration and other Federal agencies; and

"(J) any additional information the Administrator determines necessary.".

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117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3462

To require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2021

Mr. CROW (for himself and Mrs. KIM of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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A BILL

To require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "SBA Cyber Awareness Act".

SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS REPORTING.

Section 10 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 639) is amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) CYBERSECURITY REPORTS.—

"(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

"(A) an assessment of the information technology (as defined in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code) and cybersecurity infrastructure of the Administration;

"(B) a strategy to increase the cybersecurity infrastructure of the Administration;

"(C) a detailed account of any information technology equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment of the Administration that was manufactured by an entity that has its principal place of business located in the People's Republic of China; and

"(D) an account of any cybersecurity risk or incident that occurred at the Administration during the 2-year period preceding the date on which the report is submitted, and any action taken by the Administrator to respond to or remediate any such cybersecurity risk or incident.

"(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—If the Administrator determines that there is a reasonable basis to

conclude that a cybersecurity risk or incident occurred at the Administration, the Administrator shall—

"(A) not later than 7 days after the date on which the Administrator makes that determination, notify the appropriate congressional committees of the cybersecurity risk or incident; and

"(B) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator makes a determination under subparagraph (A)—

"(i) provide notice to individuals and small business concerns affected by the cybersecurity risk or incident; and

"(ii) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, based on information available to the Administrator as of the date which the Administrator submits the report, that includes—

"(I) a summary of information about the cybersecurity risk or incident, including how the cybersecurity risk or incident occurred; and

"(II) an estimate of the number of individuals and small business con-

cerns affected by the cybersecurity risk or incident, including an assessment of the risk of harm to affected individuals and small business concerns.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect the reporting requirements of the Administrator under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, in particular the requirement to notify the Federal information security incident center under section 3554(b)(7)(C)(ii) of such title, or any other provision of law.

"(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

"(i) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

"(ii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

"(B) CYBERSECURITY RISK; INCIDENT.—The terms 'cybersecurity risk' and 'incident' have the meanings given such terms, respec-

tively, under section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.".

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[115II3170__RFS]

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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4515

To amend the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. CHABOT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. DUTIES OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER COUNSELORS.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(o) CYBER STRATEGY TRAINING FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'cyber strategy' means resources and tactics to assist in planning for cybersecurity and defending against cyber risks and cyber attacks; and

"(B) the term 'lead small business development center' means a small business development center that has received a grant from the Administration.

"(2) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a cyber counseling certification program, or approve a similar existing program, to certify the employees of lead small business development centers to provide cyber planning assistance to small business concerns.

"(3) NUMBER OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES.—The Administrator shall ensure that the number of employees of each lead small business development center who are certified in providing cyber planning

assistance under this subsection is not fewer than the lesser of—

"(A) 5; or

"(B) 10 percent of the total number of employees of the lead small business development center.

"(4) CONSIDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER CYBER STRATEGY.—In carrying out this subsection, the Administrator, to the extent practicable, shall consider any cyber strategy methods included in the Small Business Development Center Cyber Strategy developed under section 1841(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2662).

"(5) REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTIFICATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall reimburse a lead small business development center for costs relating to the certification of an employee of the lead small business development center under the program established under paragraph (2).

"(B) LIMITATION.—The total amount reimbursed by the Administrator under subpara-

graph (A) may not exceed $350,000 in any fiscal year.".

[116H1648]

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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4513

To amend the Small Business Act to provide for the establishment of an enhanced cybersecurity assistance and protections for small businesses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DONALDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to provide for the establishment of an enhanced cybersecurity assistance and protections for small businesses, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. ENHANCED CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 21(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(9) SMALL BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTIONS.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE UNITS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, and in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General, shall establish—

"(i) in the Administration, a central small business cybersecurity assistance unit; and

"(ii) within each small business development center, a regional small business cybersecurity assistance unit.

"(B) DUTIES OF THE CENTRAL SMALL BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE UNIT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The central small business cybersecurity assistance unit established under subparagraph (A)(i) shall serve as the primary interface for small

business concerns to receive and share cyber threat indicators and defensive measures with the Federal Government.

"(ii) USE OF CAPABILITY AND PROCESSES.—The central small business cybersecurity assistance unit shall use the capability and process certified pursuant to section 105(c)(2)(A) of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1504(c)(2)(A)) to receive cyber threat indicators or defensive measures from small business concerns.

"(iii) APPLICATION OF CISA.—A small business concern that receives or shares cyber threat indicators and defensive measures with the Federal Government through the central small business cybersecurity assistance unit established under subparagraph (A)(i), or with any appropriate entity pursuant to section 103(c) of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1503(c)), shall receive the protections and exemptions provided in such Act and this paragraph.

"(C) RELATION TO NCCIC.—

"(i) CENTRAL SMALL BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE UNIT.—The central small business cybersecurity assistance unit established under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be collocated with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center.

"(ii) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The national cybersecurity and communications integration center shall have access to all cyber threat indicators or defensive measures shared with the central small cybersecurity assistance unit established under subparagraph (A)(i) through the use of the capability and process described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

"(D) CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—The central small business cybersecurity assistance unit established under subparagraph (A)(i) shall—

"(i) work with each regional small business cybersecurity assistance unit established under subparagraph (A)(ii) to provide cybersecurity assistance to small business concerns;

"(ii) leverage resources from the Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State, and any other Federal department or agency the Administrator determines appropriate, in order to help improve the cybersecurity posture of small business concerns;

"(iii) coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security to identify and disseminate information to small business concerns in a form that is accessible and actionable by small business concerns;

"(iv) coordinate with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to identify and disseminate information to small business concerns on the most cost-effective methods for implementing elements of the cybersecurity framework of the National Institute of Standards and Technology applicable to improving the cybersecurity posture of small business concerns;

"(v) seek input from the Office of Advocacy of the Administration to ensure that any policies or procedures adopted by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government do not unduly add regulatory burdens to small business concerns in a manner that will hamper the improvement of the cybersecurity posture of such small business concerns; and

"(vi) leverage resources and relationships with representatives and entities involved in the national cybersecurity and communications integration center to publicize the capacity of the Federal Government to assist small business concerns in improving cybersecurity practices.

"(E) ENHANCED CYBERSECURITY PROTECTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court against any small business concern, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, if such action related to or arises out of—

"(I) any activity authorized under this paragraph or the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.); or

"(II) any action or inaction in response to any cyber threat indicator, defensive measure, or other information shared or received pursuant to this paragraph or the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

"(ii) APPLICATION.—The exception provided in section 105(d)(5)(D)(ii)(I) of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1504(d)(5)(D)(ii)(I)) shall not apply to any cyber threat indicator or defensive measure shared or received by small business concerns pursuant to this paragraph or the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

"(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to affect the applicability or merits of any defense, motion, or argument in any

cause of action in a court brought against an entity that is not a small business concern.

"(F) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

"(i) CISA DEFINITIONS.—The terms 'cyber threat indicator' and 'defensive measure' have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).

"(ii) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.—The term 'national cybersecurity and communications integration center' means the national cybersecurity and communications integration center established under section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148).".

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON NEW APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) EXISTING FUNDING.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be carried out using amounts

made available under section 21(a)(4)(C)(viii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(viii)).

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 21(a)(4)(C)(viii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.648(a)(4)(C)(viii)) is amended to read as follows:

"(viii) LIMITATION.—

"(I) CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE.—From the funds appropriated pursuant to clause (vii), the Administration shall reserve not less than $1,000,000 in each fiscal year to develop cybersecurity assistance units at small business development centers under paragraph (9).

"(II) PORTABLE ASSISTANCE.—

"(aa) IN GENERAL.—Any funds appropriated pursuant to clause (vii) that are remaining after reserving amounts under subclause (I) may be used for portable assistance for startup and sustainability non-matching grant programs to be conducted by eligible small business development centers in communities that

are economically challenged as a result of a business or government facility down sizing or closing, which has resulted in the loss of jobs or small business instability.

"(bb) GRANT AMOUNT AND USE.—A non-matching grant under this subclause shall not exceed $100,000, and shall be used for small business development center personnel expenses and related small business programs and services.".

Mark-up Remarks – Boots to Business

Thank you, Madame Chair.

I am grateful to the Committee for its consideration today of my legislation, the *Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2021,* which I introduced with my colleague Rep. Roger Williams.

Consideration of this bill comes at a critical time as we develop solutions to get people back to work and continue to grow our economy while still dealing with the lingering uncertainty posed by COVID.

The pandemic has been incredibly challenging for all of us, and especially for our small businesses,

which are the bedrock of our economy. We must invest in our small businesses, in American entrepreneurs and in ensuring we develop a skilled and expanding workforce that can meet the challenges of the post-Covid economy.

Our bill builds on proven outcomes by codifying the already successful Boots to Business program into law. Since 2013, Boots to Business has provided more than 100,000 exiting servicemembers with the tools to start their own businesses.

Through the Boots to Business program, servicemembers, as well as their spouses, are able to experience a multi-week in-depth curriculum to build the foundation for future entrepreneurial

success. This course teaches participants everything from the process of market research to the art of securing funding for a new business.

My legislation would codify Boots to Business into law to ensure servicemembers are able to take advantage of the program today and into the future.

Over the years, I've heard from many servicemembers-turned-small business owners who have directly benefited from the training provided in the Boots to Business Program. With so many communities seeking to replace the businesses that didn't survive the pandemic, this program is more critical than ever before.

I am pleased that this bill has bipartisan support and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to show their support by voting in favor of it today.

Once again, I want to thank the Committee staff, who helped draft this legislation, and my colleague Mr. Williams, for joining me in this effort. I look forward to seeing this legislation move forward and to continuing to champion America's veterans and small businesses.

AMERICA'S SBDC

July 27, 2021

Honorable Nydia Velazquez, Chairman
Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives
2360 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC

Dear Chairwoman Velazquez,

America's SBDCs, the association representing the 63 small business development center (SBDC) networks and their nearly 1,000 centers, wishes to express its support for HR 4513, the Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2021 introduced by Representative Donalds. This bill addresses a significant issue facing small business and the ability of SBDCs to assist them in fighting cybercrime.

We strongly support your committee's efforts to build cyber-security resources for small business in the federal government. By creating a central cybersecurity assistance unit at the SBA and establishing regional units at SBDCs we can begin to coordinate efforts to assist small business with cybersecurity. While SBDCs have already begun significant efforts at educating small business assess, plan for, and fight cyber threats we have much work still to do.

Also, by encouraging small business to report intrusions confidentially through SBDCs we can begin to leverage the SBDC footprint with federal resources. HR 4513 will also spur the growth of coordinated education by encouraging the collaboration of the Departments of Commerce and Homeland Security in the development of SBDC training and education programs.

Again, thank you and your colleagues for this timely legislation. America's SBDCs look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

C. Edward Rowe III
President/CEO

8990 Burke Lake Road - Second Floor, Burke, VA 22015 ◦ (703)764-9850 ◦ www.asbdc-us.org

AMERICA'S SBDC

July 27, 2021

Honorable Nydia Velazquez, Chairman
Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives
2360 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC

Dear Chairwoman Velazquez,

America's SBDCs, the association representing the 63 small business development center (SBDC) networks and their nearly 1,000 centers, wishes to express its support for HR 4515, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2021 introduced by Representatives Garbarino, Evans and Chabot. This bill is both timely and necessary to encourage and assist SBDCs in their efforts to aid small business with the increasing threat of cybercrime.

We strongly support your committee's efforts to build cyber-security resources for small business at SBDCs. This legislation builds on the resources that SBDCs are already providing and developing to help small business assess, plan for, and fight cyber threats. Our Cybersecurity Task Force is already working to develop training for SBDC advisors led by our networks in Delaware, Mississippi, and South Carolina. HR 4515 will spur the development of this training by providing resources to support our certification and education programs.

Again, thank you and your colleagues for this timely legislation. America's SBDCs look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

C. Edward Rowe III
President/CEO

8990 Burke Lake Road - Second Floor, Burke, VA 22015 ▫ (703)764-9850 ▫ www.asbdc-us.org