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Union Calendar No. 802

118TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
118–953

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

118TH CONGRESSS



DECEMBER 26, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, December 26, 2024.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CLERK: In accordance with clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the activities report of the Committee on Small Business for the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

ROGER WILLIAMS,
Chairman.

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118TH CONGRESS *2d Session* | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 118–953

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

DECEMBER 26, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted the following

R E P O R T

Clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 118th Congress requires that each standing committee, not later than January 2nd of each odd-numbered year, submit to the House a report on the activities of that Committee, including separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of that Committee.

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND SPECIAL OVERSIGHT FUNCTION

Clause 1(q) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives sets forth the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business as follows:

(1) Assistance to and protection of small business, including financial aid, regulatory flexibility, and paperwork reduction.

(2) Participation of small-business enterprises in Federal procurement and Government contracts.

In addition, clause 3(l) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that the Committee on Small Business shall study and investigate on a continuing basis the problems of all types of small business.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(A) Applicability of House Rules.

(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives, so far as they are applicable, are the rules of the Committee on Small Business ("the Committee") and its Subcommittees.

(2) Each subcommittee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its rules so far as applicable.

(3) Except where the term "the Committee" and "subcommittee" are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee and its subcommittees as well as the to their respective chairs, ranking minority members, and members.

(4) Rule XI of the Rules of the House, which pertains entirely to Committee procedure, is incorporated and made a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

(B) Appointments by the Chair. Pursuant to the Rules of the House, the Chair shall designate a Member of the Committee Majority to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee. The Vice Chair shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chair. The Chair also reserves the right to designate a Member of the Committee Majority to serve as the Chair at a hearing or meeting.

(C) Authority to Conduct Investigations. The Committee and its subcommittees, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, may conduct such investigations and studies as they may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of their responsibilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House and in accordance with clause 2(m) of House Rule XI.

2. MEETINGS IN GENERAL

(A) Regular Meetings. The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session. The Chair is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof when circumstances warrant as determined by the sole discretion of the Chair.

(B) Additional Meetings. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair or at the request of the majority Members of the Committee pursuant to Rule XI, cl. 2(c) of the rules of the House. At least 3 calendar days' notice, pursuant to Rule XI, cl. 2(g)(3)(A), of such an additional meeting shall be given unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to call the meeting on less notice or upon a vote by a majority of the Committee (a quorum being present). Announcements of the meeting shall be published promptly in the Daily Digest and made publicly available in electronic form.

(C) Business to be Considered. The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chair subject to limitations set forth in House Rule XI, cl. 2(c).

(D) Meeting Materials. The Chair shall provide to each Member of the Committee, to the extent practicable, at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting, a copy of the bill, resolution, report, or other item to be considered at the meeting, but no later than 24 hours before the meeting. Such material also shall be made available to the public at least 24 hours in advance in electronic form.

(E) Special and Emergency Meetings. The rules for notice and meetings as set forth in Rule 5 of these Rules shall not apply to special and emergency meetings. Clause 2(c)(2) of Rule XI and clause 2(g)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, as applicable, shall apply to such meetings.

(F) Open Meetings. Each meeting of the Committee or its Subcommittees for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, shall be open to the public, including to radio, television, streaming, and still photography coverage, except as provided by House Rule XI, cl. 4. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the meeting determine by a recorded vote in open session that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; provided however, that no person other than Members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such executive branch representatives they may authorize, shall be present in any meeting which has been closed to the public.

(G) Open Hearings. Each hearing conducted by the Committee or its Subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television, and still photography coverage. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the hearing determine by a recorded vote in open session that all or part of the remainder of the hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; provided however, that the Committee or Subcommittee may by the same procedure also vote to close one subsequent day of hearings. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present (if the requisite number of Members are present under Committee Rules for the purpose of taking testimony) may vote: (i) to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether the testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or violate Rule XI, cl. 2(k)(5) of the House or (ii) to close the hearing, as provided clause 2(k)(5) of Rule XI of the House.

(H) Participation in Subcommittee Hearings. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for any hearing conducted by a Subcommittee. Members of the Committee who wish to participate in a hearing of the Subcommittee to which they are not Members shall make such request to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee at the commencement of the hearing. The Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, shall grant such request.

(I) Non-Participatory Attendance by Other Members of the House. No Member of the House may be excluded from non-participatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or any Subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by major-

ity vote authorize the Committee or Subcommittees, for purposes of a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearing to Members by the same procedures designated to close hearings to the public.

(J) Procedure to Participate. Members of Congress who are not Members of the Committee but would like to participate in a hearing shall notify the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member and submit a formal request no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting or hearing. Such Member may not vote on any matter; be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum; participate in questioning a witness under the 5-Minute rule, unless permitted to do so by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member; raise points of order; or offer amendments or motions.

(K) Audio and Video Coverage. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner easily accessible to the public. Operation and use of any Committee internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with clauses 4 (b) and (f) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

3. MEETING AND HEARING PROCEDURES IN GENERAL

(A) Notice and Information for Members and the Public

(1) Public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee shall be made no later than seven (7) calendar days before the commencement of the hearing. To the extent possible, the seven days shall be counted from 168 hours before the time of the Committee's hearing.

(2) The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or upon a vote by the majority of the Committee (a quorum being present), may authorize a hearing to commence on less than 7 days' notice.

(3) A list of witnesses shall be made available as soon as practicable after the hearing is noticed to the public. A final witness list shall be issued by the Committee no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the hearing.

(4) The Chair shall provide to all Members of the Committee, as soon as practicable after the announcement of the hearing, a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing and any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter of the hearing. Such material shall be made available to all Members of the Committee no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing, unless the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determines that certain reports from departments or agencies should not be made available prior to the commencement of the hearing. Material provided by the Chair to all Members, whether provided prior to or at the hearing, shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 48 hours after the commencement of the hearing, unless such material contains sen-

sitive or classified information, in which case such material shall be handled pursuant to Rule 16 of the Committee's Rules.

(B) Questioning of Witnesses. Except when the Committee adopts a motion pursuant to subdivisions (B) and (C) of clause 2(j)(2) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, Committee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose. Members shall have the opportunity, as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2 (j) of the Rules of the House, to question each witness on the panel for a period not to exceed five minutes. For any hearing, the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee may offer a motion to extend the questioning of a witness or witnesses by the Member identified in the motion for more than five minutes as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2(j)(B). No Member may be recognized for a second period of interrogation, subject to the 5-minute rule, until each Member present, who wishes to be recognized, has been recognized at least once.

(C) Order of Questioning

(1) Full Committee Hearings. The Chair of the Committee shall commence questioning followed by the Ranking Minority Member. Thereafter, questioning shall alternate between the Majority and Minority Members. Before the gavel has been struck, or in the case of Members arriving simultaneously, the order of questioning shall be based on seniority among Members of his or her own party. After the gavel has been struck, Members first to arrive shall have priority over Members of his or her own party. Members of Congress who are not Members of the Committee, if allowed by the Chair, may be recognized for questioning of witnesses but only after all Committee Members have first been recognized.

(2) Subcommittee Hearings. The Chair of the Subcommittee shall commence questioning followed by the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee. If present, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall then be recognized for questioning, respectively. Thereafter, questioning shall alternate between the Majority and Minority Members of the Subcommittee. Before the gavel has been struck, or in the case of Subcommittee Members arriving simultaneously, the order of questioning shall be based on seniority among Members of his or her own party. After the gavel has been struck, Subcommittee Members first to arrive shall have priority over Subcommittee Members of his or her own party. Members of the Full Committee who are not members of the Subcommittee and are granted permission to participate pursuant to committee rule 7(C), may be recognized for questioning only after all Subcommittee Members have first been recognized. The order of questioning for Members of the Full Committee who are not members of the Subcommittee shall be based on full committee seniority. Members of Congress who are not Members of the Subcommittee, if allowed by the Chair, may be recognized for questioning of witnesses but only after all Subcommittee Members and Full Committee Members have first been recognized.

(D) Consideration of Ratio. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chair may take into consideration the ratio of Ma-

jority and Minority Members present in such a manner as to not disadvantage the Members of either party.

(E) Remote Participation. Except as provided by section 3(j) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress and these regulations, witnesses shall testify before a committee in person. No remote testimony will be accepted from witnesses testifying in a government capacity. In the event the chair of a committee determines that testimony of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity is necessary and such a witness is only available to participate remotely due to extreme hardship or other exceptional circumstances, the chair may allow the witness to participate remotely, with written approval from the Majority Leader.

(1) The official record of the committee proceeding shall include a letter from the chair detailing the necessity of allowing the witness to participate remotely, a description of why the witness could not participate in person, why such testimony was necessary for purposes of fulfilling Congress's Article I responsibility, and a letter from the Majority Leader approving of such remote participation.

(2) The witness must agree to remain on the platform until excused by the chair. The witness should conduct a pre-hearing technology test with staff designated by the chair, to ensure the witness will have sufficient internet connection during the hearing, and to minimize the possibility of any technical issues.

(3) No witness appearing in a governmental capacity may participate remotely. No witness testifying before a committee in response to a subpoena is permitted to testify remotely, unless both the chair of the committee and the Majority Leader authorize such testimony in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.

(4) Any text based or private messaging function in the software platform used to facilitate the participation of a remote witness must be disabled unless it is used to provide technical support to the witness, which may be excluded from the public video stream and will not be considered a committee record.

(5) Only witnesses approved for remote participation may have participatory access on the software platform.

(6) Committees may only utilize a software platform certified by the Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer should inform committees, including the ranking minority members, each time a software platform is certified.

(7) Witnesses participating remotely should appear before a nonpolitical, professional appropriate background that is minimally distracting to other members and witnesses, to the greatest extent possible. It remains within the full discretion of the chair to enforce rules of decorum for committee proceedings.

(8) Any committee report of activities submitted pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI should include a list of hearings conducted with remote participation.

(9) A witness participating remotely in a committee proceeding shall be visible onscreen within the software platform until excused by the chair. The witness shall disclose to the

chair and ranking member any additional individual(s) present off screen.

(10) Witness counsel shall be allowed access on the remote proceeding software platform if they are not in the physical presence of the witness. It is recommended that counsel facilitate a separate secure line of communication with the witness. A witness may not be unmuted by any other individual and should be allowed to use such secure line of communication while testifying to confer with counsel.

(11) A witness may not allow an individual not invited to testify to speak on the platform. The committee chair may only provide an exception when the other individual is necessary to facilitate the witness's participation in the hearing (e.g. translators).

(12) A chair may not authorize remote participation for more than one witness at a committee hearing without the approval of the Majority Leader in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.

(F) Transcripts of proceedings. A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public meetings and hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the Chair may prescribe.

4. REFERRAL OF BILLS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair will retain consideration of all legislation referred to the Committee by the Speaker. No action will be required of a Subcommittee before legislation is considered for report by the Committee. Subcommittee chairs, pursuant to the rules set out herein, may hold hearings on any bill referred to the Committee.

5. SUBCOMMITTEES

(A) Generally. Each Subcommittee of the Committee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee, and to the Rules of the House and the rules adopted herein, to the extent applicable. The Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for the purpose of any meeting conducted by a Subcommittee.

(B) The Committee shall be organized into the following five subcommittees:

1. Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chains. This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and five (5) Democratic Members) will address issues to enhance rural economic and business growth, increase America's energy independence, and ensure America's small businesses can compete effectively in a global marketplace. This Subcommittee will review supply chain disruptions impacts on small businesses and the importance of having products made in America.

- Oversight of the Small Business Administration's outreach and structure as it pertains to increasing assistance to rural businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Oversight of agricultural policies, including those related to the Farm bill to enhance small business interests..
- Oversight of trade policies and issues affecting small firms related to trade agreements.
- Oversight of energy issues.

- Oversight of international trade policy with particular emphasis on agencies that provide direct assistance to small businesses, such as: the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of International Trade, the Department of Commerce's United States Export Assistance Centers, the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, and the
- Export-Import Bank.
- Oversight of infringement of intellectual property rights by foreign competition.
- Examine the implementation and effectiveness of government programs designed to assist rural and agricultural businesses impacted by the pandemic.
- Examine the impact of supply chain disruptions on small businesses.

2. Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development. This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and five (5)Democratic Members) will address how innovation promotes economic growth and job creation by small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine small business job growth through the creation and adoption of advanced technologies. The Subcommittee will review the broad scope of workforce issues that affect the ability of small businesses to obtain and maintain qualified employees.

- Oversight of SBA entrepreneurial development programs.
- Oversight of all federal policies that affect the workforce including, but not limited to, the roles of the Department of Labor, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the National Labor Relations Board.
- Analyze workforce issues, including but not limited to health care, retirement, and labor challenges facing small businesses.
- Examination of general technology issues, including cyber security issues confronting small businesses and intellectual property policy in the United States.
- Oversight of United States telecommunications policies including, but not limited to, the National Broadband Plan and allocation of electromagnetic spectrum.
- Oversight of the Small Business Innovation Research Program.
- Oversight of the Small Business Technology Transfer Program.
- Investigate the state of the nation's entrepreneurship, the challenges they face, and steps to strengthen entrepreneurship, including startups, solopreneurs, self-employed, and microbusinesses.
- Examine programs and efforts designed to assist both small employers and their workers throughout the Covid–19 pandemic.

3. Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access. This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and five (5) Democratic Members) will evaluate the operation of the financial markets in the United States and

their ability to provide needed capital to small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will review federal programs, especially those overseen by the SBA, aimed at assisting entrepreneurs in obtaining needed capital. Since the tax policy plays an integral role in access to capital, this Committee also will examine the impact of federal tax policies on small businesses.

- Oversight of capital access and financial markets including FinTech and digital asset companies.
- SBA financial assistance programs, including guaranteed loans, microloans, certified development company loans, and small business investment companies.
- Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act
- Oversight of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Oversight of the Department of Agriculture business and industry guaranteed loan program.
- Oversight of general tax policy affecting small businesses.
- Oversight of the Internal Revenue Service.
- The management of the SBA's COVID Relief programs and the agency's disaster loan program.
- Analyze efforts to address challenges for the unbanked and underbanked business community and steps to increase capital access
- Review the challenges and opportunities presented by Fintech companies as it relates to small business capitalization.
- Investigate the implementation and efficacy of programs related to supporting the business community and nonprofits throughout the Covid–19 pandemic, including but not limited to the Paycheck Protection Program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, and other SBA programs.

4. Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations. This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and five (5) Democratic Members) will review the regulatory burdens imposed on small businesses by federal agencies and how those burdens may be alleviated. This Subcommittee will also probe the efficient operation of government programs that affect small businesses, including the SBA, and develop proposals to make them operate in a more efficient manner.

- Oversight of general issues affecting small businesses and federal agencies.
- Oversight of the management of the SBA.
- Oversight of the SBA Inspector General.
- Oversight of the SBA's Office of Advocacy.
- Implementation and effectiveness of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.
- Oversight of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget.
- Use of the Congressional Review Act.

- Transparency of the federal rulemaking process as required by the Administrative Procedure and Data Quality Acts.
- Evaluating the Paperwork Reduction Act.
- Investigate all programs relating to the Covid–19 pandemic, SBA's anti-fraud framework, and their impact on the business and nonprofit community and their employees.

5. Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure. This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Republican Members and five (5) Democratic Members) will assess the federal procurement system, including those programs designed specifically to enhance participation by small businesses in providing goods and services to the federal government. The Subcommittee will review the broad scope of opportunities available to small businesses for rebuilding and modernizing the nations' infrastructure.

- Oversight of government-wide procurement practices and programs affecting small businesses.
- Oversight of federal procurement policies that inhibit or expand participation by small businesses in the federal contracting marketplace.
- Oversight of all contracting programs established by the Small Business Act or those relying on or modeled after programs in the Small Business Act
- Review technical assistance provided to federal contractors and prospective contractors through SBA personnel, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- Review the SBA Surety Bond guarantee program.
- General oversight of programs available to small businesses in modernizing and strengthening the nation's infrastructure.
- Address steps the federal government has taken or can take to strengthen the supply chain and create more federal procurement opportunities for small business concerns.
- Analyze implementation of the infrastructure law to ensure the participation of small businesses and review steps needed to strengthen their competitiveness in infrastructure projects.

(C) Powers and Duties of Subcommittees. Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on any matters referred to it. Prior to the scheduling of any meeting or hearing of a Subcommittee, the Chair of the Subcommittee shall obtain the approval of the Chair of the Committee.

(D) Hearing Time and Date. No hearing or meeting of a Subcommittee shall take place at the same time as the meeting or hearing of the Full Committee or another Subcommittee, *provided however*, that the Subcommittee Chairs may hold field hearings that conflict with those held by other Subcommittees of the Committee.

6. WITNESSES

(A) Number of Witnesses. For any hearing conducted by the Committee or Subcommittee there shall be no more than four non-governmental witnesses of which the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate) is entitled to select one witness for the hearing.

(B) Witnesses Selected by the Minority. Witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be invited to testify by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate). Rule 6(A) shall apply with equal force to witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee.

(C) Small Business Week Exception. The limitations set forth in the preceding paragraph shall not apply if the Committee holds a hearing to honor the work of the small business community in conjunction with the annual celebration of Small Business Week. Witness limitations for such a hearing shall be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(D) Statement of Witnesses.

(1) Insofar as is practicable, each witness who is to appear before the Committee or Subcommittee shall file an electronic copy of the written testimony with the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing.

(2) Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a five-minute summary of the written testimony, unless the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, extends this time period.

(3) Insofar as is practicable, each non-governmental witness shall provide to the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member, no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing, a curriculum vitae or other statement describing their education, employment, professional affiliation, or other background information pertinent to their testimony.

(E) Witness Disclosure. As required by Rule XI, cl. 2(g) of the Rules of the House, each non-governmental witness before the commencement of the hearing shall file with the Chair a disclosure form detailing any contracts or grants that the witness has with the federal government, as well as the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Such information shall be posted on the Committee website within 24 hours after the witness appeared at the hearing.

(F) Failure to Comply. The failure to provide the materials set forth by the deadlines set forth in these rules may be grounds for excluding both the oral and written testimony of the witness unless waived by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee.

(G) Public Access to Witness Materials. The Committee will provide public access to printed materials, including the testimony of witnesses in electronic form on the Committee's website no later than 24 hours after the hearing is adjourned. Supplemental material provided after the hearing adjourns shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 24 hours after receipt of such material.

7. QUORUM

(A) Generally. A majority of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall form a quorum for the Committee or subcommittee, respectively, except that two members, one Member from the Majority and one Member from the Minority, shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(B) Quorum for a Hearing. For purposes of taking testimony or receiving evidence, a quorum shall be one Member from the Majority and one Member from the Minority.

(C) The Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee shall exercise reasonable comity by waiting for the Ranking Minority Member even if a quorum is present before striking the gavel to commence the hearing.

(D) Field Hearings. For hearings held by the Committee or a Subcommittee in a location other than the Committee's hearing room or the assigned hearing room in Washington, DC, a quorum shall be deemed to be present if the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee is present.

8. RECORD VOTES

(A) When Provided. A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of any Member of the Committee. A record of the vote of each Member of the Committee on a matter before the Committee shall be available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote, and, with respect to any roll call vote on any motion to amend or report, shall be included in the report of the Committee showing the total number of votes cast for and against and the names of those Members voting for and against.

(B) Proxy Voting. No vote by any Member of the Committee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(C) Public Access to Record Votes. The Chair of the Committee shall, not later than 24 hours after consideration of a bill, resolution, report or other item, cause the text of the reported item and any amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form.

9. SUBPOENAS, OATHS, AND DEPOSITIONS

(A) Issuance of Subpoena. A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Chairman, in accordance with clause 2(m) of Rule XI of the House of Representatives with 24-hour notice and consultation with the Ranking Member.

(1) The Committee may authorize and issue a subpoena under clause 2(m) of House Rule XI if authorized by a majority of the Members voting.

(B) Oaths. The Chairman of the Committee, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(C) Deposition Authority. Pursuant to section 3(k) of House Resolution 5 of the 118th Congress, the Chair upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member may order the taking of depositions, including pursuant to subpoena, by a member or counsel of the Committee. Depositions taken by a member or counsel of the Committee shall be subject to regulations issued by the Committee on

Rules and printed in the Congressional Record. A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of section 3(k) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress, and these regulations.

10. AMENDMENTS DURING MARKUP

(A) Availability of Amendments. Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee must be made available in written form by any Member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the markup may be recessed subject to the call of the Chair to provide sufficient time for the provision of such written amendment. Such recess shall not prejudice the offering of such amendment.

(B) Drafting and Filing of Amendments. For amendments to be accepted during markup, there is no requirement that the amendments be filed prior to commencement of the markup or prepared with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel. Even though it is not necessary, Members seeking to amend legislation during markup should draft amendments with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel and consult with the Chair or Ranking Minority Member's staff (as appropriate) in the preparation of such amendments.

11. POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

(A) When Postponement is Permissible. The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume postponed proceedings, but no later than 24 hours after such postponement, unless the House is not in session or there are conflicts with Member schedules that make it unlikely a quorum will be present to conduct business on the postponed proceeding. In such cases, the Chair will consult with Members to set a time as early as possible to resume proceedings but in no event later than the next meeting date as set forth in Rule 2 of these Rules.

(B) Resumption of Proceedings. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

12. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(A) The Committee shall maintain a complete record of all actions, which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded. The result of any vote by the Committee, or if applicable by a Subcommittee, including a voice vote shall be posted on the Committee's website within 24 hours after the vote has been taken. Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of the Member voting for and against such amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the names of Members present but not voting. For any amendment, motion, order, or other

proposition decided by voice vote, the record shall include a description and whether the voice vote was in favor or against.

(B) Transcripts. The Committee shall maintain a complete record of all Committee and Subcommittee activity which, in the case of a meeting or hearing transcript, shall include a substantially verbatim account of the remarks actually made during the proceedings subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks.

(C) Availability of Records. The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to Rule VII, cl. 3(b)(3) or cl. 4 (b), to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination of the written request of any Member of the Committee.

(D) Publishing and Posting of Records. The Committee Rules shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 60 days after the Chair of the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

13. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the Minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

14. ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

(A) Access to classified or sensitive information supplied to the Committee or Subcommittees and attendance at closed sessions of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be limited to Members and necessary Committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance when the Chair determines that such access or attendance is essential to the functioning of the Committee or one of its Subcommittees.

(B) Procedures Governing Availability. The procedures to be followed in granting access to those hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the Committee which involve classified information or information deemed to be sensitive shall be as follows:

(1) Only Members of the House of Representatives and specifically designated Committee staff of the Committee on Small Business may have access to such information.

(2) Members who desire to read materials that are in possession of the Committee shall notify the Clerk of the Committee in writing.

(3) The Clerk of the Committee will maintain an accurate access log, which identifies the circumstances surrounding access to the information, without revealing the material examined.

(4) If the material desired to be reviewed is material which the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special handling, before receiving access to such in-

formation, individuals will be required to sign an access information sheet acknowledging such access and that the individual has read and understands the procedures under which access is being granted.

(5) Material provided for review under this rule shall not be removed from a specified room within the Committee offices.

(6) Individuals reviewing materials under this rule shall make certain that the materials are returned to the proper custodian.

(7) No reproductions or recordings may be made of any portion of such materials.

(8) The contents of such information shall not be divulged to any person in any way, form, shape, or manner and shall not be discussed with any person who has not received the information in the manner authorized by the rules of the Committee.

(9) When not being examined in the manner described herein, such information will be kept in secure safes or locked file cabinets within the Committee offices.

(10) These procedures only address access to information the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special treatment.

(11) If a Member of the House of Representatives believes that certain sensitive information should not be restricted as to dissemination or use, the Member may petition the Committee or Subcommittee to so rule.

(12) With respect to classified information and materials provided to the Committee by the Executive Branch or an independent agency as that term is defined in 44 U.S.C. § 3502, the classification of information and materials as determined by the Executive Branch or independent agency shall prevail unless affirmatively changed by the Committee or Subcommittee involved, after consultation with the Executive Branch or independent agency.

(13) Other materials in the possession of the Committee are to be handled in accordance with House Rules.

15. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chair of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

16. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a majority vote of the Members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change or changes has been provided to each Member of the Committee at least 72 hours prior to the time of the meeting of the Committee to consider such change or changes.

17. COMMITTEE STAFF

(A) Majority Staff. The employees of the Committee, except those assigned to the Minority as provided below, shall be appointed and assigned, and may be removed by the Chair of the Committee. The

Chair shall fix their remuneration and they shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

(B) Minority Staff. The employees of the Committee assigned to the Minority shall be appointed and assigned, and their remuneration determined, as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall decide.

(C) Subcommittee Staff. There shall be no separate staff assigned to Subcommittees. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall endeavor to ensure that sufficient Committee staff is made available in order that each Subcommittee may carry out the responsibilities set forth in Rule 3, supra.

18. BUDGET AND TRAVEL

(A) Allocation of Budget. From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in the 118th Congress, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall designate one- third of the budget under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of Minority staff, travel expenses of Minority staff and Members, and Minority office expenses.

(B) Authorization of Travel. The Chair may authorize travel in connection with activities or subject matters under the legislative or oversight jurisdiction of the Committee as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House. The Ranking Minority Member may authorize travel for any Minority Member or staff of the Minority in connection with activities or subject matters under the Committee's jurisdiction as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House. Before such travel, there shall be submitted to the Chair of the Committee in writing the following at least seven (7) calendar days prior specifying: (a) the purpose of the travel; (b) the dates during which the travel is to occur; (c) the names of the states or countries to be visited and the length of time spent in each; and (d) the names of Members and staff of the Committee participating in such travel.

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Committee on Small Business (Ratio: 15–12)

Roger Williams, Texas, *Chairman*

Republican Members	**Democrat Members**
Roger Williams (TX), *Chairman*	Nydia M. Velázquez (NY), *Ranking Member*
Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO)	Jared Golden (ME)
Pete Stauber (MN)	Kweisi Mfume (MD)*
Dan Meuser (PA)	Dean Phillips (MN)
Beth Van Duyne (TX)	Greg Landsman (OH)
Maria Salazar (FL)	Morgan McGarvey (KY)
Tracey Mann (KS)	Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA)
Jake Ellzey (TX)	Hillary Scholten (MI)
Marc Molinaro (NY)	Shri Thanedar (MI)
Mark Alford (MO)	Judy Chu (CA)
Eli Crane (AZ)	Sharice Davids (KS)
Aaron Bean (FL)	Chris Pappas (NH)
Wesley Hunt (TX)	LaMonica McIver (NJ)*
Nick LaLota (NY)	
Celeste Maloy (UT)*	

Mr. Kewisi Mfume resigned from the Committee on June 4, 2024
Ms. Celeste Maloy joined the Committee on December 6, 2023
Ms. LaMonica McIver joined the Committee on September 24, 2024

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access

Dan Meuser, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

Republican Members	**Democrat Members**
Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO)	Greg Landsman (OH), *Ranking Member*
Beth Van Duyne (TX)	Dean Phillips (MN)
Mark Alford (MO)	Judy Chu (CA)
Nick LaLota (NY)	Sharice Davids (KS)
	Jared Golden (ME)

Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations

Beth Van Duyne, Texas, *Chairman*

Republican Members	**Democrat Members**
Mark Alford (MO)	Kweisi Mfume (MD), *Ranking Member**
Eli Crane (AZ)	Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA)
Aaron Bean (FL)	Jared Golden (ME)
Wesley Hunt (TX)	Shri Thanedar (MI)*
	LaMonica McIver (NJ)*

After Mr. Mfume resigned, Mr. Shri Thanedar (MI) became Ranking Member
After Mr. Mfume resigned, Ms. LaMonica McIver (NJ) joined the Subcommittee

Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chains

Wesley Hunt, Texas, *Chairman*

Republican Members	**Democrat Members**
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER (MO)	MARIE GLUESENKAMP PEREZ (WA), *Ranking Member*
PETE STAUBER (MN)	JARED GOLDEN (ME)
DAN MEUSER (PA)	HILLARY SCHOLTEN (MI)
TRACEY MANN (KS)	GREG LANDSMAN (OH)
CELESTE MALOY (UT)	

Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure

Nick LaLota, New York, *Chairman*

Republican Members	**Democrat Members**
MARIA SALAZAR (FL)	HILLARY SCHOLTEN (MI), *Ranking Member*
JAKE ELLZEY (TX)	KWEISI MFUME (MD)*
MARC MOLINARO (NY)	MORGAN MCGARVEY (KY)
AARON BEAN (FL)	JUDY CHU (CA)
CELESTE MALOY (UT)	SHRI THANEDAR (MI)
	LAMONICA MCIVER (NJ)*

**After Mr. Mfume resigned, Ms. LaMonica McIver (NJ) joined the Subcommittee*

Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development

Marc Molinaro, New York, *Chairman*

Republican Members	**Democrat Members**
TRACEY MANN (KS)	MORGAN MCGARVEY (KY), *Ranking Member*
MARIA SALAZAR (FL)	SHRI THANEDAR (MI)
JAKE ELLZEY (TX)	CHRIS PAPPAS (NH)
ELI CRANE (AZ)	DEAN PHILLIPS (MN)
	JUDY CHU (CA)

AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN

Mr. Williams, Chair of the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following:

REPORT

Rule X, clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each standing committee of the House to adopt and submit an authorization and oversight plan for this Congress to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on House Administration by March 1 of the first session of Congress.

The following is the authorization and oversight plan for the Committee on Small Business and its subcommittees for the 118th Congress. The Committee will conduct oversight and investigations pursuant to its legislative and oversight jurisdiction under Rule X, which permits the Committee to investigate any matter affecting small business.

Rule X, clause 2(d)(2) requires that committee oversight plans include a list of programs or agencies within each committee's jurisdiction with lapsed authorizations that received funding in the prior fiscal year, or a program or agency with a permanent authorization, which has not been subject to a comprehensive review by the committee in the prior three Congresses. The Committee has found no Small Business Administration Programs (SBA) that fit these parameters.

Rule X, clause 2(d)(2) also requires a description of the programs or agencies to be authorized in the current Congress or the next Congress, and any oversight to support the authorization of each such program or agency in the current Congress, and recommendations for changes to existing law for moving such programs or agencies from mandatory funding to discretionary appropriations, where appropriate. The Committee may consider reforms and improvements to various SBA programs as noted throughout this Authorization and Oversight Plan.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations of SBA and other federal agencies that provide capital to American's entrepreneurs that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Effectiveness of the capital access programs to generate jobs in the fastest growing small businesses.
- Whether lenders are meeting their goals to lend small businesses and create jobs.
- Risk to the taxpayers of the capital access programs.

- Adequacy of SBA oversight of its lending partners to ensure that federal taxpayers are properly protected.
- Capabilities of the SBA information technology to manage the loan portfolio.
- Whether SBA rules, regulations, and guidance result in transparent and reasoned decision making with respect to capital access programs.
- Assessment of credit-scoring algorithms as a replacement for individual credit assessment by SBA and its lending partners.
- The exercise of discretion by SBA to create pilot programs and the risk they pose to the taxpayer and whether such authority should be curtailed or eliminated.
- Whether SBA disaster loan program and its oversight ensures that small businesses are able to revive and rebuild communities without unduly placing the federal taxpayer at risk.
- Review of the Paycheck Protection Program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, and other COVID–19 related relief programs related to small business.
- Efficacy and duplication of federal capital access programs offered by the Department of Agriculture to small business in rural areas.
- Utilization by small businesses of export capital programs at the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
- Continued examination of the Small Business Lending Fund and State Small Business Credit Initiative established by Pub. L. No. 111–240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, in creating jobs and providing capital to small businesses.
- Impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 111–203, on small business access to capital.
- Implementation of crowdfunding and other provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, Pub. L. No. 112–106.
- Review of proposed changes to capital access programs, to include lifting the moratorium on licensing new Small Business Lending Companies.
- Implementation of program clarifications made to encourage more cooperative and employee stock ownership plan lending through SBA programs established by the Main Street Employee Ownership Act of 2018, passed into law by the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115–232.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus on risky aspects of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, commercial real estate financing, premier certified lenders, participating security small business investment companies, small business lending companies, express lenders, and loan programs utilizing simplified lending applications.

OVERSIGHT OF SBA AND OTHER FEDERAL ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the SBA programs that providing training and advice to small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examining effectiveness of SBA entrepreneurial development programs, including programs for veterans, in creating jobs at startups and traditional firms.
- Determining whether certain programs should be eliminated as a result of their ineffectiveness or duplications of programs provided by other agencies or by the private sector.
- Suggesting methods for enhancing coordination among federal agencies in providing assistance to entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to, businesses located in rural areas and those seeking to provide goods and services in the federal procurement marketplace.
- Recommending improvements in assistance to small businesses in rural areas and low-income areas.
- Review SBA's transition from EDMIS to Nexus, the new data collection system for Entrepreneurial Development programs.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING MATTERS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal procurement system that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Whether fraud or other problems exist in the federal government contracting programs overseen by the SBA.
- Effectiveness of SBA contracting programs to increase participation by small business in federal procurement.
- Review SBA certification systems to ensure timely and accurate processing of applications and continue to monitor the migration of the veteran certification program from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Small Business Administration.
- Effectiveness of federal agency protection against contract bundling and consolidation. The accuracy and utility of SBA size standards and federal procurement databases.
- Operation and effectiveness of federal agency assistance provided to small businesses interested in federal procurement, including that provided by the SBA, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- Development of federal acquisition policies and whether small businesses have sufficiently effective voice in development of such policies.
- Cost-effectiveness of outsourcing government work to private enterprise rather than expanding the government to provide the good or service internally.

- Implementation and efficacy of changes made in small business federal procurement programs arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Acts.
- Examination of the Small Business Innovation Research Program as modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2012, Pub. L. No. 112–81, including but not limited to, increased efforts at commercializing federally funded technology.
- Review the implementation of Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer programs as extended by Pub. L. No. 117–183.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus its efforts on uncovering abuse and misuse of the small business designation to obtain federal government contracts.

OVERSIGHT OF SBA MANAGEMENT

The committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the management of the SBA that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The fulfillment of the mission of the SBA.
- Whether agency employees in the field are empowered to assist small business.
- Whether field offices are appropriately staffed.
- Duplication of offices and missions at SBA headquarters.
- Effectiveness of personnel management.
- Capabilities of SBA employees to provide proper assistance to small business owners.
- Agency personnel capabilities to properly manage loan defaults to maximize recovery of collateral.
- Whether SBA improperly utilizes statutory authority to create untested initiatives and the procedures by which the agency develops such programs.
- Policies and procedures to ensure fair and competitive contracting opportunities for small business.
- Monitor the agency's spending and efforts as it relates to the pandemic response and fully account for Covid–19-provided appropriations.
- Review the SBA's technology and data systems in an effort to modernize, strengthen, and improve interoperability between platforms.
- Assess the agency's efforts to secure their networks and data systems.

In carrying out this oversight the Committee will focus particularly on streamlining and reorganizing of the agency's operations to provide maximum assistance to small business owners. Offices that primarily provide assistance or advice to headquarters staff that do not promote the interests of small businesses or protect the federal government as a guarantor of loans will be recommended for cuts or elimination.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK BURDENS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into unnecessary, burdensome, and duplicative federal rules, reporting and

recordkeeping requirements affecting small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Consumer Product Safety Commission Department of Agriculture.
- Department of Commerce.
- Department of Energy, particularly the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
- Department of Health and Human Services, particularly the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Food and Drug Administration.
- Department of the Interior.
- Department of Homeland Security, particularly the Transportation Security Administration.
- Department of Labor, particularly the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Wage and Hour Division.
- Department of Transportation, particularly the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
- Department of the Treasury, particularly the Internal Revenue Service.
- Environmental Protection Agency, particularly the office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.
- Federal Communications Commission.
- Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and its constituent agencies.
- Office of Management and Budget, particularly the Office of Federal Procurement Policy.
- Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Committee will identify specific rules and regulations already issued or at the proposed rule stage to assess the impact on small business. In addition, the Committee will examine agency compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, and the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Committee will pay close attention to the effect that regulations have on startups. Oversight of the regulatory process also will, to the extent relevant, examine the work of the Office of Informational and Regulatory Affairs and the Office of Management and Budget. Special attention will be paid to the work performed by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration to ensure that office is fulfilling its mission to advocate vigorously on behalf of America's small business owners in regulatory matters at federal agencies. Finally, this oversight will entail an examination of compliance by federal agencies with amendments to Executive Order 12866 and memoranda on regulatory flexibility and regulatory compliance issued on January 18, 2011, as well as Executive Order 13272.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL TAX POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal tax code, its impact on small business, and Internal Revenue Services' (IRS) collection of taxes that may include any or all

of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Identification of tax code provisions and proposed rules that hinder the ability of small businesses to create jobs and recommendations for modifying those provisions to boost small business job growth.
- Examination of the structure of the tax code in order to simplify compliance for small businesses.
- Assessment of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements associated with tax compliance and suggestions for reducing such burdens on small businesses.
- Evaluation of the estate tax provisions to determine whether they inhibit the ability of successive generations to maintain successful job creating enterprises.
- Efficiencies at the IRS that improve the interaction between the government and small business owners.
- Inefficiencies at the IRS that force small businesses to divert capital from job growth to tax compliance.

OVERSIGHT OF TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into international trade and intellectual property policies of America and its trading partners that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Impact of free trade agreements to increase exports by American small businesses.
- Oversight of SBA's Office of International Trade and the agency's efforts to promote small business exports.
- Examination of the impact of illicit actions by foreign entities on small businesses and whether the federal government is doing enough to protect their interests.
- Whether the federal government is doing enough to protect the intellectual property rights of small businesses by foreign competitors.
- The impact of federal intellectual property polices, particularly patents and copyrights, to protect the innovation of American entrepreneurs.
- Efforts to increase exports by small businesses.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative takes position at the World Trade Organization that sufficient promote the interests of American small business.

The focus of oversight will emphasize the best mechanisms to promote and protect advanced technology innovations of small business.

REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND SPENDING

In addition to the programs and policies already cited, the committee will examine any and all offices and programs that fall within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction to find areas that could lead to reduction in the federal deficit. Some programs and offices may include:

- Express Loan Program overseen by SBA.
- Emerging Leaders initiative started by SBA.

- Clusters Program initiated by SBA.
- Innovation and Impact Fund Pilot Programs operated by the SBA.
- SBA Office of Policy.
- SBA Regional Administrators.
- Office of Advocacy Regional Advocates.
- SBA Deputy District Directors.
- SBA Office of International Trade.
- SBA's Cybersecurity for Small Business Pilot Program.

In particular, the Committee will assess whether a reorganization of offices to more critical functions at the SBA will provide a more effective agency at helping small businesses to generate growth.

PROGRAMMATIC DUPLICATION

The Committee notes that § 18 of the Small Business Act prohibits duplication of any effort by the Small Business Administration if a program is already offered by another federal agency unless the Small Business Administration expressly authorizes the duplication. The Committee will continue to monitor the Small Business Administration for programs that duplicate the efforts of other federal agencies.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that each standing committee, no later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the House a report on the activities of that committee, including a separate section summarizing the legislative activities of that committee.

A. BUSINESS MEETINGS

On Monday, February 6, 2023, the Committee held an organizational meeting to appoint Chairs and Ranking Members of the five sub-committees and adopt Committee Rules.

On Tuesday, February 28, 2023, the Committee held a meeting to consider the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2024.

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, the Committee held a markup on H.R. 1644, The Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act, H.R. 1651, the 7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act, H.R. 1541, the Small Business Workforce Pipeline Act of 2023, H.R. 1730, the Supporting Small Businesses and Career and Technical Education Act of 2023, H.R. 1606, the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023, and H.R. 3511, the Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act.

On Tuesday, July 18, 2023, the Committee held a markup on H.R. 4667, the RECLAIM Taxpayer Funds Act, H.R. 4666, a bill to require the SBA OIG to submit quarterly reports on PPP/EIDL fraud, H.R. 4480, the SERV Act, H.R. 3995, The Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act, H.R. 4669, the DOE and SBA Research Act, H.R. 4668, the POST IT Act, H.R. 4671, the Corrective Action

Report Oversight Accountability Act, and H.R. 4670, the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act of 2023.

On Thursday, September 14, 2023, the Committee held a markup on H.R. 5424, The Main Street Competes Act, H.R. 5265, The Small Business Administration Rural Performance Report Act, H.R. 5425, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and for other purposes, H.R. 5426, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans, and H.R. 5427, a bill to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

On Wednesday, January 31, 2024, the Committee held a markup on H.R. 5450, The Enhancing Competition in Contracting Orders, H.R. 6591, The Encouraging Success Act, H.R. 7102, The Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act, H.R. 7103, The Agency Accountability Act, H.R. 6156, The Child Care Small Business Insight Act, H.R.7104, The National SBSC Advisory Board Improvement Act, H.R. 7105, The WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act H.R. 7128, The WOSB Integrity Act of 2024, and H.R. 7129, The Put America on Commission Act of 2024.

On Wednesday, February 24, 2024, the Committee held a markup to consider the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2025.

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, the Committee held a markup on H.R. 7984, The Rural Small Business Resilience Act, H.R. 5333, The Investing in All of America Act of 2023, H.R. 8014, The Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act, H.R. 7987, The Plain Language in Contracting Act, H.R. 7988, The Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform (SPUR) Act of 2024, H.R. 7985, The Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Reporting Act of 2024, and H.R. 7989, The ThinkDIFFERENTLY About Disability Employment Act.

On Tuesday, September 10, 2024, the Committee held a markup on H.R. 8033, the Regulatory Transparency for Small Businesses Act, H.R. 9031, the Assurance for Small Business Act of 2024, H.R. 9032, the Enhanced Regulatory Flexibility Assessment Act, H.R. 9030, the Regulatory Agenda Clarity Act, H.R. 9085, the Regulatory Review Improvement Act of 2024, H.R. 9033, the Let Americans Businesses be On Record (LABOR) Act, and H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act of 2024.

B. LEGISLATION

VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING ACT OF 2023

H.R. 1606

Summary

H.R. 1606, the "Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023" is to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes. This bill amends Section 32 of the Small Business Act by adding a new subsection authorizing the Boots to Business Program for 5 years. The bill updates the definition of Members of the Armed

Forces and sets goals for the program, which include-in-depth training for servicemembers interested in owning a business, and development of tools to identify opportunities, draft business plans, identify sources of capital, connect with local resources for small businesses, and launch the business. This bill delineates the program components including an in-person entrepreneurship program.

It also gives the Small Business Administration (SBA) the authority to collaborate with public and private entities to develop the curricula, ensures Veterans Business Outreach Centers regularly participate in the program, and to the reasonable maximum extent, allows the participation of other resource partners as well.

The bill facilitates the sharing of course and outreach materials with the Secretary of Defense for inclusion in DOD websites, manuals, and other materials related to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for distribution and display at local VA facilities.

The bill requires the SBA Administrator to provide a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives within 180 days after enactment of the legislation and annually thereafter. The report will evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to Business program.

Legislative History

H.R. 1606 was introduced on March 14, 2023, by Representative Bradley Scott Schnieder (D–IL–10). The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on June 5, 2023, and passed the House on June 20, 2023, under Suspension of the Rules, by a vote of 407 to 0 (Roll Call No. 279). H.R. 1606 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on June 21, 2023.

SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OPPORTUNITIES IN SMALL BUSINESS ACT

H.R. 3511

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 3511, the "Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act" is to require training on increasing contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

H.R. 3511 amends the Small Business Act to require the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide training to federal agencies who fail to meet the contracting goal for Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses on how to increase awards to those firms.

Legislative History

H.R. 3511 was introduced on May 18, 2023, by Representative Nick LaLota (R–NY–10). The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 19, 2023, and passed the House on February 28, 2024, under Suspension of the Rules, by voice vote. H.R. 3511 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred

to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on February 29, 2024.

SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR RESERVISTS AND VETERANS ACT

H.R. 4480

Summary

H.R. 4480, the "Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists (SERV) Act," is to commission a Government Accountability Office report on veteran small business owners' access to capital. It also requires the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development to develop an outreach plan for programs veterans can access as they return to civilian life, like Small Business Administration's (SBA) Boots to Business program. Finally, the bill requires the task force to report annually to Congress on its appointments and outreach plan.

Legislative History

H.R. 4480 was introduced on July 6, 2023, by Representative Sharice Davids (D–KS–3). The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 1, 2023, and passed the House on November 28, 2023, under Suspension of the Rules, by a vote of 407 to 0 (Roll Call No. 279). H.R. 4480 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on November 29, 2023.

TO REQUIRE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO SUBMIT A QUARTERLY REPORT ON FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID–19 LOANS

H.R. 4666

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 4666 is to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report to Congress for two years which provides updated information concerning the ongoing fraud investigations of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and COVID–19 Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL).

Legislative History

H.R. 4666 was introduced by Rep. Aaron Bean (R–FL) and Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D–MD) on July 17, 2023. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 1, 2023, and passed the House on November 30, 2023, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 4666 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on December 4, 2023.

RECLAIM TAXPAYER FUNDS ACT

H.R. 4667

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 4667, the "RECLAIM Taxpayer Funds Act," is to require the Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish processes and procedures to accept, process, and account for fraudulent and unused Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan funds.

Legislative History

H.R. 4667 was introduced by Rep. Maria Salazar (R–FL) and Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D–KY) on July 17, 2023. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 1, 2023, and passed the House on November 30, 2023, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 4667 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on December 4, 2023.

POST IT ACT OF 2023

H.R. 4668

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 4668, the POST IT Act, is to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to publish guidance documents for rules that have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The legislation will make it easier for small businesses to better understand and comply with guidance that may otherwise be difficult for them to find and understand.

Legislative History

H.R. 4668 was introduced by Rep. Maria Salazar (R–FL) and Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D–KY) on July 17, 2023. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 1, 2023, and passed the House on November 28, 2023, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 4668 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on November 29, 2023.

DOE AND SBA RESEARCH ACT

H.R. 4669

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 4669, the "DOE and SBA Research Act", is to require the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other agreement to conduct cross cutting research and execute joint mission requirements while increasing small business opportunities.

This bill allows for SBA and the Department of Energy's National Laboratories to enter into a MOU or other agreement to carry out research and development in support of the missions of the National Labs and SBA.

Legislative History

H.R. 4669 was introduced by Rep. LaLota (R–NY) and Rep. Thanedar (D–MI) on July 17, 2023. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 1, 2023, and passed the House on February 28, 2024, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 4669 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on February 29, 2024.

SMALL BUSINESS ACT SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION RURAL PERFORMANCE REPORT ACT

H.R. 5265

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 5265, the "SBA Rural Performance Report Act," is to require SBA to produce two reports on activities related to rural entrepreneurs. The first report is on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Small Business Association (SBA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on activities jointly performed to conduct outreach to rural communities. The second report is an addition to SBA's annual budget justification to include activities performed by SBA's Office of Rural Affairs.

Legislative History

On August 25, 2023, Rep. Alford along with Representatives Luetkemeyer, Ellzey, and Bean, introduced H.R. 5265. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 26, 2023, and passed the House on February 28, 2024, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 5265 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on February 29, 2024.

TO REQUIRE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE A LINK TO RESOURCES FOR SUBMITTING REPORTS ON SUSPECTED FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID–19 LOANS

H.R. 5426

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 5426 is to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide a link on their website to simplify the process for reporting suspected fraudulent Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans related to the COVID–19 pandemic.

Legislative History

On September 13, 2023, Rep. Van Duyne, along with Rep. Landsman, introduced H.R. 5426. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 26, 2023, and passed the House on February 29, 2024, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 5265 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on March 5, 2024.

TO PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF DEFRAUDING THE GOVERNMENT FROM RECEIVING ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 5427

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 5427 is to prohibit anyone convicted of defrauding the government during the COVID–19 pandemic from ever receiving a loan through the Small Business Administration.

Legislative History

On September 13, 2023, Rep. Williams and Rep. Mfume introduced H.R. 5427. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on September 26, 2023, and passed the House on November 28, 2023, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 5427 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on November 29, 2023.

ENCOURAGING SUCCESS ACT

H.R. 6591

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 6591, the "Encouraging Success Act," is to amend section 8(a)(6) of the Small Business Act to require the Small Business Administration (SBA) to revise the asset threshold for the 8(a) program at least every four years. The 8(a) program offers disadvantaged small businesses assistance and allows these businesses to compete for set-aside, sole-source contracts within the federal government.

Legislative History

On December 5, 2023, Rep. Ellzey introduced H.R. 6591. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on December 5, 2023, and passed the House on February 28, 2024, under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 6591 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on February 29, 2024.

NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

H.R. 7102

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7102, the "Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act," is to provide statutory codification for the Office of Native American Affairs within the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). In doing so, Congress will be able to provide better oversight into the activities and effectiveness of the office.

Legislative History

On January 29, 2024, Rep. Davids and Rep. Crane introduced H.R. 7102. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on February 23, 2024 and passed the House on February 29, 2024

under Suspension of the Rules, by a vote of 402–16 (Roll no. 57). H.R. 7102 was received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 337 on March 5, 2024.

AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2024

H.R. 7103

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7103, the "Agency Accountability Act of 2024," is to require agencies that fail to meet their small business procurement goals to testify before Congress on their failures and efforts to meet these goals.

Legislative History

On January 29, 2024, Rep. Stauber along with Representatives McGarvey and LaLota introduced H.R. 7103. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on February 23, 2024 and passed the House on April 29, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7102 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on April 30, 2024.

WOSB CERTIFICATION AND OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION ACT

H.R. 7105

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7105, the "WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act," is to exclude certain self-certified firms from being counted in government-wide procurement goals.

Legislative History

On January 29, 2024, Rep. Velázquez and Rep. LaLota introduced H.R. 7105. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on February 20, 2024 and passed the House on February 28, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7105 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on February 29, 2024.

THE WOSB INTEGRITY ACT OF 2024

H.R. 7128

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7128, the "WOSB Integrity Act of 2024," is to ensure that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) develops processes and procedures to ensure that applicants in the SBA Women Owned Small Business (WOSB) program are small businesses.

Legislative History

On January 30, 2024, Rep. Maloy, along with Rep. Scholten, introduced H.R. 7128. The bill was reported by the Small Business

Committee on February 13, 2024 and passed the House on February 29, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7128 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on March 5, 2024.

RURAL SMALL BUSINESS RESILIENCE ACT

H.R. 7984

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7984, the "Rural Small Business Resilience Act," is to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals in rural areas.

Legislative History

On April 15, 2024, Rep. Pappas and Rep. Bean introduced H.R. 7984. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on June 4, 2024 and passed the House on June 11, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7984 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on June 12, 2024.

INVESTING IN ALL OF AMERICA ACT OF 2023

H.R. 5333

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 5333, the "Investing in All of America Act of 2023," is to improve the SBIC program at the SBA by encouraging private investment in overlooked areas of the country while maintaining a zero-subsidy status. Specifically, the bill increases the SBIC licensee commitment levels by a factor of inflation and provides additional leverage to licensees when committing to invest in smaller enterprises in rural areas or smaller enterprises developing technology that is critical to national defense.

Legislative History

On September 1, 2024, Rep. Meuser and Rep. Scholten introduced H.R. 5333. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on April 26, 2024 and passed the House on April 29, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 5333 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on April 30, 2024.

TRANSPARENCY AND PREDICTABILITY IN SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ACT

H.R. 8014

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 8014, the "Transparency and Predictability in Small Business Opportunities Act," is to require the Small Business Administration (SBA) to create a rule on how agencies will submit information on contract solicitations that have been can-

celled by an agency, and require agencies to refer small businesses that prepared a bid for these cancelled solicitations to the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) for assistance in identifying similar contract opportunities.

Legislative History

On April 16, 2024, Rep. Mfume, along with Rep. Alford introduced H.R. 8014. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on June 4, 2024 and passed the House on June 11, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 8014 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on June 12, 2024.

PLAIN LANGUAGE IN CONTRACTING ACT

H.R. 7987

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7987, the "Plain Language in Contracting Act," is to require federal agencies to write contract solicitations in a clear and concise way, and to the extent practicable with the Federal plain language guidelines.

Legislative History

On April 15, 2024, Rep. LaLota along with Rep. Thanedar introduced H.R. 7987. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on April 26, 2024 and passed the House on April 29, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7987 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on April 30, 2024. It was then Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 409 on May 23, 2024

SPUR ACT

H.R. 7988

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7988, the "Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform (SPUR) Act," is to amend the Small Business Act to require the SBA to account for the number of new entrants into the federal procurement space when it grades agencies for use in its Scorecard. The Scorecard assigns agencies a letter grade to determine how well they are meeting their small business contracting goals.

Legislative History

On April 15, 2024, Rep. Stauber, along with Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez, introduced H.R. 7988. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on June 11, 2024 and passed the House on June 11, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7988 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on June 12, 2024.

ENTREPRENEURS WITH DISABILITIES REPORTING ACT OF 2024

H.R. 7985

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7985, the "Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Reporting Act of 2024," is to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to submit a report to Congress on the challenges facing entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Legislative History

On April 15, 2024, Rep. McGarvey, along with Rep. Molinaro introduced H.R. 7985. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on April 26, 2024 and passed the House on April 29, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7985 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on April 30, 2024.

THINKDIFFERENTLY ABOUT DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT ACT

H.R. 7989

Summary

The purpose of H.R. 7989, the "ThinkDIFFERENTLY About Disability Employment Act," is to provide for a memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the National Council on Disability (NCD) to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Legislative History

On June 4, 2024, Rep. Molinaro and Rep. Pappas introduced H.R. 7989. The bill was reported by the Small Business Committee on June 4, 2024 and passed the House on June 11, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a voice vote. H.R. 7989 was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on June 12, 2024.

PROVE IT ACT OF 2024

H.R. 7198

Summary

H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act of 2024, introduced by Rep. Brad Finstad (R–MN), amends the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) to require agencies to better account for the effects of regulations on small businesses. The bill empowers small businesses to petition the Small Business Administration's Chief Counsel for Advocacy to review an agency's certification that a proposed regulation will not have a significant economic impact on small businesses, requires agencies to publish guidance documents interpreting regulations that have a significant economic impact on small businesses, and improves the periodic review process for regulations.

Legislative History

On February 1, 2024, Rep. Brad Finstad (R–MN) introduced H.R. 7989. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and

in addition to the Committee on Small Business on February 1, 2024. It passed the House on December 4, 2024 under Suspension of the Rules, by a vote of 208–196 (Roll no. 489). H.R. 7198 was received in the Senate on December 9, 2024.

OVERSIGHT SUMMARY

Clause 1(d) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each standing committee, not later than January 2 of each odd numbered year, to submit to the House a report on the activities of that committee, including a separate section summarizing the oversight activities of that committee. The report shall also include a delineation of any hearings held pursuant to clauses 2(n), (o), or (p) of Rule XI related to waste, fraud and abuse in government programs.

PART A—FULL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

FIRST SESSION OF THE 118TH CONGRESS

FROM NOTHING TO SOMETHING: THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

On February 28, 2023, the Committee on Small Business met for a hearing titled, "From Nothing to Something: The Story of the American Dream." This hearing highlighted stories directly from small business owners about how they built their businesses and the federal policy challenges and concerns they face while trying to grow their businesses.

Witnesses for the hearing were Ms. Zan Prince, Chairman of the Board, First Bank Texas, Mr. Roy Heim, President, Heim Construction Company, Mr. Drew Davis, Founder and Owner, Crippling Hot Sauce, and Ms. Corrine Hendrickson, Owner, Corrine's Little Explorers.

At the hearing, Chairman Williams noted the new challenges facing small businesses in today's burdensome regulatory environment. The Chairman and members directed questions to the four small business owners to better understand the highs and lows that come along with being a small business owner in today's inflationary economy. The panelists were commemorated for their hard work to keep their small business up and running as they faced the pandemic, rising interest rates, inflation, supply chain issues and other economic challenges. Ms. Zan Prince, Chairman of the Board, First Bank brought the perspective of a generational bank that has faced additional challenges with today's rising interest rates. Mr. Roy Heim, President of Heim Construction Company, advocated for more vocational training for our youth. Mr. Drew Davis, Founder and Owner of Crippling Hot Sauce, shared his inspiring story of how he faced adversity while founding his new small businesses as a 17-year-old with a disability. Lastly, Ms. Corrine Hendrickson, Owner, Corrine's Little Explorers advocated for child care workers—"the workforce behind the workforce."

These entrepreneurs and innovators are the engines driving our economy and we will continue to promote and protect them through

pro-growth legislation and ensuring small business owners and hard-working families are not continually subject to higher taxes, crippling regulations, supply chain bottlenecks, and labor shortages. We are eager to enact policy solutions that will help pave a path toward success for both now and the future.

SMALL BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES ON THE IMPACTS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) RULE

On March 8, 2023, the Committee on Small Business met for a hearing titled, "Small Business Perspectives on the Impacts of the Biden Administration's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule." The purpose of this hearing is to examine the potential effects of this proposed rule on small businesses.

Witnesses for the hearing were Ms. Katherine R. English, Owner, English Family Limited Partnership, Fort Myers, testifying on behalf of The American Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. Frank Murphy, Vice President/CFO/COO, Wynne Jackson Inc., Dallas Texas, testifying on behalf of the National Association of Home Builders and Mr. Rick Baumann, Founder, Murrells Inlet Seafood, South Carolina testifying on behalf of the Board of Directors, South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

At the hearing, Chairman Williams discussed with the three witnesses the challenges and uncertainty resulting from the EPA and the Army Corps WOTUS rule. The Chairman and members directed questions to a farmer, a developer, and a fisherman which brought three unique perspectives to this hearing. Ms. Katherine R. English, Owner of English Family Limited Partnership discussed how the rule increases uncertainty on her family farm. Representing the agriculture industry Ms. English said she understands the need for clean water, healthy soils and the health of environment but overtime the federal and state jurisdiction has become blurred; creating uncertainty for landowners. Mr. Frank Murphy, of Wynne Jackson Inc. explained how this regulation would delay many develop projects and increase the cost on consumers. Mr. Murphy focused on the regulation impacts on small entities; specifically the costs these businesses would have to take in consideration and how the extra costs will impact the longevity and sustainability of these entities. Mr. Rick Baumann, Founder of Murrells Inlet Seafood contributed by discussing the importance of having clean waters and efforts to combat contamination in the fishing industry. Due to vague definitions and a confusing web of new regulations, it was clear business owners still lack a basic understanding of what exactly is considered "waters of the United States" and subject to regulation under this new rule.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

On March 23, 2023, at 2:00 PM EST, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Oversight of the Small Business Administration." The purpose of this hearing is to thoroughly review the activities of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Witness for the hearing was the Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman, Administrator for the United States Small Business Administration. Ms. Guzman was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 16, 2021, and is a member of the President's Cabinet.

At the hearing, Chairman Williams asked a series of oversight questions to Administrator Guzman requesting a status update of the current efforts of the SBA can provide aid while assisting and protecting the interests of small businesses. Committee members from both sides of the aisle asked Administrator Guzman an array of probing questions including what conversations have taken place with the president to advocate for small business, tracking fraud in the PPP and EIDL programs, data regarding the duplicative Community Navigators program, and proposed rules that would add responsibility to the SBA beyond their capabilities. Administrator Guzman defended the SBA and made the case that the SBA is operating efficiently and deserves more responsibility. However, after the hearing Committee members were left with many questions that they wanted further clarity on from the Administrator.

The conservation carried out at today's hearing shows that the SBA continues to face procedural, oversight, spending, and fraud challenges and requires serious oversight.

PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE: HOW TAX HIKES CRUSH THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SMALL BUSINESSES

On April 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM EST, The House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Paying Their Fair Share: How Tax Hikes Crush the Competitiveness of Small Businesses" to examine how changes to the tax code could be beneficial or detrimental to small businesses. The hearing was brought to order by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses for the hearing consisted of: Mr. Russell Boening; the President of the Texas Farm Bureau, Mr. Warren Hudak; the President of Hudak & Company, testifying on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, Ms. Lynn Mucenski-Keck; a tax professional at Withum, and Ms. Anne Zimmerman; the Founder and Owner of Zimmerman & Co. CPAs Inc.

Following Member opening statements and witness introductions, the first series of questions were posited to examine the benefits The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) has had on small businesses. Then witnesses were then asked to explain how President Biden's tax proposals would result in higher taxes and affect their respective abilities to expand their operations. Lastly, witnesses were questioned on the wide-range of risks posed by massively increasing the IRS's funding and agent capacity.

The witnesses contended that the TCJA has directly yielded to an increase in investment, productivity gains, economic growth, and higher standards of living. Furthermore, they highlighted which components of the bill have promoted their highest fiscal returns. Subsequently, testimonies were provided to debunk the claim that the Biden tax proposals would not affect businesses making less than $400,000. Lastly, the panel expressed their reservations and concerns regarding the increase in IRS funding. This hearing highlighted the stark differences in tax policies between the Republicans and Democrats as well as iterating which political direction is favored by small businesses across America.

TAKING ON MORE RISK: EXAMINING THE SBA'S CHANGE TO THE 7(A) LENDING PROGRAM PART I

On May 10th, 2023, The House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Taking on More Risk: Examining the SBA'S Change to the 7(a) Lending Program Part I" to probe a major Small Business Administration (SBA) official on the rule changes surrounding their flagship 7(a) lending program.

The hearing was chaired by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX). The witness summoned was Mr. Patrick Kelley, the Associate Administrator for the Office of Capital Access (OCA) at the SBA.

Subsequent to opening remarks and an introduction of the witness, Chairman Williams initiated the discussion by questioning Mr. Kelley on the SBA's rule changes and their effectiveness. Members then continued examining the necessity of these changes as well as the discrepancies between the SBA and the White House's reporting on how these changes would affect the SBA's lending portfolio.

Next, the Members questioned Mr. Kelley on the SBA's capability to combat fraud considering all these drastic changes. Furthermore, Members expressed their concerns that these new rules will attenuate the program's integrity because they increase the number of lenders to the program while simultaneously reducing underwriting standards.

The disapproval of these rule changes was evident from Members from both sides of the aisle, and that these modified rules to the 7(a) program will compromise the efficiency and effectiveness of the SBA. Members expressed that under the SBA's current direction, fraud will perpetuate, small businesses will lack access to capital, and the taxpayer will continue to bear the costs.

TAKING ON MORE RISK: EXAMINING THE SBA'S CHANGES TO THE 7(A) LENDING PROGRAM PART II

On May 17th, 2023, The House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled: "Taking on More Risk: Examining the SBA's Changes to the 7(a) Lending Program Part II" to discuss how the Small Business Administration's (SBA) rules and changes to their 7(a) lending program affect small businesses.

The panel of witnesses for the hearing included: Mr. Tony Wilkinson, President and CEO of the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (NAGGL), Mr. Ami Kassar, Founder and CEO of Multifunding LLC, Ms. Alice Frazier, President and CEO of Bank of Charles Town and Mr. Manuel Flores, President & CEO of SomerCor; testifying on behalf of National Association of Development Companies (NADCO).

After opening remarks, members began asking the witnesses questions about how the new Small Business Administration (SBA) rules in the 7(a) lending program will affect small businesses. The witnesses expressed concern that the new rules—which were seemingly pushed through the regulatory process—will negativity impact small businesses. The witnesses expressed concern with the tight timeline currently required to implement these changes as they have had little time to read, review, and begin to implement the new regulations.

In addition, Members flagged serious concerns about whether the SBA is capable of handling these drastic changes to their flagship lending program. While each rule is problematic individually, the combination of the two is incredibly troublesome. These rules together will add more lenders to the program while simultaneously reducing underwriting standards. The witnesses expressed concern about the SBA's ability to protect against fraud and conduct proper oversight over the new lenders. Many Members advocated for the SBA to pause implementation of these rule changes until there is further clarity.

SALUTING SERVICE: SUPPORTING VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

On May 24th, 2023, The House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Saluting Service: Supporting Veteran Owned Small Businesses'" to analyze the dynamics that affect veteran small business owners transitioning out of military service and into the civilian workforce. This hearing also examined how the federal government provides resources that facilitate this transition.

The hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX). The panel of witnesses included Lieutenant Commander Taylor Burks—the President and General Manager of Rost Landscaping, Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Hyacinthe—the CEO and Founder of Wimage, Sergeant 1st Class Grant Quezada—the Founder of the Founding Fathers Collective, and E5 Staff Sergeant Liberty Weaver—the Owner of Breakable Hearts LLC.

Pursuant opening remarks and witness introductions, the Members began probing witnesses on the obstacles faced as businessowners leaving the military. Each witness explained that they have withstood barriers accessing capital, impeding labor shortages, rising costs, and other supply chain disruptions. The witnesses then proceeded to discuss the difficulties they encountered with the SBA and the uncooperativeness of their lenders. As a result, the remainder of the hearing was about highlighting the inefficacy of the SBA and what can be done at the federal level to placate veteran owned small business concerns.

This hearing was key in exhibiting the incongruent relationship between veteran owned small businesses and the federal resources needed for business growth. Though there are federal initiatives tailored for veteran business owners, the panel of witnesses clearly expressed that these programs need improvement.

PRICES ON THE RISE: EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON SMALL BUSINESSES

On June 7th, 2023, The Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Prices on the Rise: Examining the Effects of Inflation on Small Businesses'" to analyze the factors perpetuating the current inflationary crises and the consequences as a result. This hearing was gaveled in by committee Chairman, Rep. Roger Williams.

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Gordon Gray—the Vice President for Economic Policy at the American Action Forum (AAF), Mrs. Silvia Saldana-Lee—the Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer of First Community Bank, Mr. Dave Zittel—

the President of Amos Zittel & Sons, Inc., and Mr. Josh Bevins—the Chief Economist and Research Director for the Economic Policy Institute (EPI).

Following Member opening remarks and witness introductions, the panel was questioned on the recovery process their respective industries have endured since the Pandemic. The witnesses explained that the current Biden administration has hindered economic growth by fruitless regulations and negligent oversight. The panel then elaborated on how the crippling increase in operational costs and sharp interest rate hikes have not sufficiently covered expenses. Lastly, the panel expressed how their respective sectors have all seen a plateau in the access to capital.

This hearing highlighted the need for a revamped legislative strategy in order to effectively placate the concerns of small business owners. As attested to, the current administration has a proven track record of reckless spending and stimulus policies that have been averse to small businesses.

ASSISTING ENTREPRENEURS: EXAMINING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC RESOURCES HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

On June 13th, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Assisting Entrepreneurs: Examining Private and Public Resources Helping Small Businesses'" to discuss the availability and efficacy of certain public and private resources centered at assisting entrepreneurs. The hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The witnesses were Mr. Chris Pilkerton—the Chief Legal Officer of Accion Opportunity Fund, Mr. Reginald Hodges—the Owner and President of Training Center of Central Texas, Mr. Rich Palmer—the Managing Director at Launchpad Venture Group and Ms. Sonya Smith—the State Director of the New York Small Business Development Center.

Pursuant Member opening remarks and witness introductions, the panel of witnesses were asked to shed light on how existing private and public resources have allowed entrepreneurship to blossom in their respective domains. Witnesses were then probed on the effectiveness of the federal government and whether additional or a redirection in spending is needed to continue upward trends. Lastly, Members asked about the challenges the entrepreneurs face as they grow their small businesses.

This hearing was key in understanding which public and private resources can be valuable as entrepreneurs look to start or grow their business. Additionally, it was insightful to hear that although federal resources are abundant, their effectiveness must always be examined that ensures they are not duplicative of private sector initiatives.

REVIEWING THE SBA'S OFFICE OF ADVOCACY REPORT ON THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT

On June 22nd, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Reviewing the SBA's Office of Advocacy Report on the Regulatory Flexibility Act" to examine the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Advocacy's progress under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) and continue

discussing oversight of federal agency rulemaking. Additionally, this hearing shed light on the challenges the office still faces and the prospective changes that need to be made.

The hearing was gaveled in by Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R–MO). The witness invited to testify was Mr. Major L. Clark, III, the Deputy Chief Counsel for Advocacy, from the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Advocacy.

After Member opening remarks and a witness introduction, Members began questioning Mr. Clark on the role the Office of Advocacy assumes when insulating small businesses from federal regulation. Next, Members inquired about whether the Office of Advocacy's lack of a "Chief Counsel" has attenuated the office's effectiveness and protocol adherence. Lastly. Mr. Clark was asked on the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) and the plan of action the Office of Advocacy considers when certifying proposed rules.

This hearing highlighted the need to continue strengthening oversight on the SBA and all its auxiliary offices, such as The Office of Advocacy. Oftentimes, small business owners nationwide are challenged with the comprehension and compliance of fluctuating federal regulations. Thus, it is critical for the Office of Advocacy to fill their "Chief Counsel" vacancy and continue to provide the resources needed to empower small businesses.

STOLEN TAXPAYER FUNDS: REVIEWING THE SBA AND OIG REPORTS OF FRAUD IN PANDEMIC LENDING PROGRAMS

On July 13, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Stolen Taxpayer Funds: Reviewing the SBA and OIG Reports of Fraud in Pandemic Lending Programs." to further discuss the issues surrounding the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the discrepancies between Inspector General Ware and Administrator Guzman's reporting on the outstanding fraudulent funds the SBA has struggled to recuperate. The hearing was brought to order by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The witness for the hearing was the Honorable Hannibal "Mike" Ware, the Inspector General of the SBA. Mr. Ware was sworn in as Inspector General on May 24, 2018, following confirmation by the U.S. Senate. SBA's Administrator, Isabella Guzman was also invited to attend today's hearing, however She declined.

Following opening statements from the witness and Members, Inspector General Ware began addressing the focal concern of the hearing—the disparity of billions of dollars between his office's investigative reports and the ones published by Administrator Guzman's office. The majority of the Member questions were posed to extrapolate why the discrepancy between the two existed and what is being done to mitigate the staggering difference.

This hearing highlighted the need to heighten the oversight surrounding the SBA's diurnal functioning. With the reports published by the two offices containing an imbalance of $100 billion dollars, it is critical for Congress to tighten the release of prospective fraudulent payments and recuperate as many outstanding loans as possible.

RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: EXAMINING THE CHALLENGES AND STATE OF RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES

On July 26, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Rural Entrepreneurship: Examining the Challenges and State of Rural Small Businesses" to analyze the obstacles rural entrepreneurs face in their respective professional fields. Additionally, this hearing also examined how the federal government's policies have actually impeded commercial growth and considered prospective policy avenues moving forward. The hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Ms. Jennifer Cassaday—the Owner of Byrd's Pecan Delights, Mr. Kendall Culp—the Vice President of the Indiana Farm Bureau, Mr. Matt Splitter—the Owner of Splitter Farms, and Mr. Josh Phillips—the Owner of Spawn Fly Fish.

Pursuant Member opening remarks and witness introductions, each witness provided a testimony in which they all shared similar dissatisfactions with inflation, taxes, regulatory burdens, and other workforce challenges. Members then asked witnesses about how business operations have managed to revitalize post-COVID and which federal policy or program has facilitated access to capital the most. To close the hearing, witnesses provided Members with policy recommendations and propositions to expand certain federal programs.

This hearing highlighted the need to further the conversation with a crucial sector of business owners—rural entrepreneurs. Much like witnesses from previous hearings, there is a core theme of frustration and disappointment directed at the federal government vis-à-vis the Small Business Administration (SBA) and similar agencies. By providing irreplaceable goods and services, rural businessowners play a fundamental role in the economic prosperity of this country. This hearing proved that the Biden Administration and their policies are hurting small businesses, and much more should be done to placate their concerns.

ATHLETES AND INNOVATORS: ANALYZING NIL'S IMPACT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETES

On September 20, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Athletes and Innovators: Analyzing NIL's Impact on Entrepreneurial Collegiate Athletes" to delve into all the ramifications brought forth by the National Collegiate Athletics Association's (NCAA) decision to alter their Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policy. The hearing was brought to order by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Eugene (Gene) Smith—Senior Vice President & Wolfe Foundation Endowed Athletic Director at The Ohio State University (OSU), Mr. Jeremiah Donati—the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Texas Christian University (TCU), Mr. Gino Torretta—a Heisman Trophy Winner, 2-Time National Champion & Member of the College Football Hall of Fame, and lastly, Ms. Madeline "Maddy" Salamone—an attorney and Vice President of the College Football Players Association (CFPBA).

Pursuant Member opening remarks and witness introductions, discussion began on how the NIL expansion has propagated students to be more entrepreneurial by considering themselves as small business entities. Each respective witness explained that the NIL change in policy has provided more benefits than disadvantages, however student-athletes are faced with blurred systemic regulations and bad actors.

Since individual states have begun passing their own NIL laws, student athletes are immersed within a regulatory patchwork of conflicting NCAA, state, conference, and university rules. Additionally, changes to NIL protocols have altered the redistribution of capital in the college ecosystem thus impacting the sports that generate lower revenues and the issuance of scholarships.

The purpose of this hearing was to call attention to NIL expansion that has revolutionized college athletics. Though the witnesses enumerated many positives with the new policy, the lack of a concrete system with demarcated boundaries will ultimately prove to be detrimental for college athletics.

ACTION THROUGH INNOVATION: PRIVATE SECTOR SOLUTIONS TO RECOUPING STOLEN PANDEMIC LOAN FUNDS

On September 27, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Action Through Innovation: Private Sector Solutions to Recouping Stolen Pandemic Loan Funds" to consider solutions provided by private sector representatives to combat the systemic fraud at the Small Business Administration (SBA) and to retrieve the stolen pandemic-era loans. This hearing was brought to order by committee Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Richard C. Breeden—the Chairman of Breeden Capital Management, LLC, Mr. JT Taylor—the Senior Director of Fraud Investigations & Operations at ID.me, Mr. Dean Zerbe—the National Managing Director at alliantgroup, and Ms. Linda Miller—the CEO of Audient Group, LLC.

Pursuant Member opening remarks and witness introductions, discussion ensued on the current status of the SBA reported fraud levels as well as the recovery efforts that have been in effect. Due to a significant lack in progress, each respective witnesses demarcated a plan designed to supplement and amplify current efforts. Ideas such as a whistleblower program, heightened private-sector cooperation, and alterations to standard banking procedures were all brought forward.

This hearing emphasized the need to broaden considerations when thwarting and recouping the fraudulent theft of taxpayer dollars. The witnesses have all divulged that current legislative behavior coupled with the lethargic oversight of the SBA will only yield to more recurrent fraud—the need to coalesce with the private sector is at an all-time high.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: HOW BURDENSOME REGULATIONS ARE CRUSHING SMALL OFFSHORE ENERGY PRODUCERS

On September 28, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chains, held a hearing titled, "Energy Independence: How Burdensome Regulations are Crushing Small Offshore Energy Producers"

to analyze the possible impact US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) recent proposed rule changes will have on the United States' energy production, particularly small energy entities. This hearing was gaveled by Subcommittee Chairman Wesley Hunt (TX–38).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Mike Minarovic—The Chief Executive Officer of Arena Energy, LLC, Mr. Paul Danos—The Chairman of the Board for the National Ocean Industries Association, Mr. Alex Epstein—The President, of The Center for Industrial Progress, and Ms. Kathleen Nisbet Moncy—The Chief Operating Officer of Goose Point Oyster.

Following Member opening remarks and the introduction of witnesses, each witness shared a testimony in which they explained how increased regulations proposed by the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) will impact their respective fields. The panel asked questions regarding, impacts of the proposed regulations on small businesses throughout different industries, energy/oil prices, and benefits of U.S. energy production. However, the crux of the discussion was regarding the debilitating regulations that are being proposed by impact US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM).

This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the proposed regulations from BOEM and NOAA will increase the burdens on small oil and gas operator and will reduce U.S. energy production overall. Additionally, this hearing increased the understanding that small businesses will bear a disproportionate amount of the proposed regulatory burden.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF DOL RULEMAKING ON AMERICA'S JOB CREATORS

On October 19, 2023, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Effects of DOL Rulemaking on America's Job Creators" to analyze the how the Department of Labor's (DOL) perpetuates the regulatory burdens and economic headwinds that stymie growth for small businesses. The hearing was brought to order by committee Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Paul J. Ray—an economic policy director at The Heritage Foundation, Mr. Mario Burgos—the Chief Strategy Officer at Prairie Band, LLC., Mr. Ric Suzio—the Vice President of The Suzio York Hill Companies, and Mr. Frank Knapp Jr.—the President & CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

Pursuant to Member opening remarks and witness introductions, discussion began on the issues surrounding small business owners of today. The panel listed high inflation, increased production costs, and labor shortages as some of the main deterrents affecting their financial prosperity. However, the crux of the discussion was regarding the debilitating regulations that are constantly imposed by the Department of Labor.

These implemented rules have only added compliance costs, cumbersome paperwork, and unnecessary guardrails. It was the overwhelming sentiment amongst the witnesses that regulations can be

positive in theory—however they have repeatedly proved to be ineffective and harmful to small businesses nationwide.

This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the need to reevaluate the current regulations in place and to reconsider future rules and regulations. It was evident, from witnesses on either side of the political spectrum, that the current system in effect is attenuating the nation's economic growth. The Department of Labor is in need of a revitalization that fully considers and prioritizes the economic success of Main Street America.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REGULATIONS ON AMERICA'S JOB CREATORS

On November 8, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled, "Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Effects of Department of Energy Regulations on America's Job Creators" to analyze the consequences of overly complex proposed regulatory actions on small businesses and American consumers by the Department of Energy (DOE). This hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Marlo Lewis—a Senior Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, Ms. Alicia Huey—the President of AGH Homes, Inc. and the Chairman of the Board for the National Association of Home Builders, Mr. Jeff Bauman—the Director of Engineering for National Refrigeration, and Professor Emily Hammond—a Professor of Law, at George Washington University.

Following Member opening remarks and the introduction of witnesses, discussion began on how the proposed regulations can be positive in theory but, have proved to be ineffective and harmful to small businesses nationwide. Members also asked witnesses about how increased regulations proposed by the Department of Energy will impact their respective fields. After the witnesses provided Members with prospective legislative considerations, the hearing was brought to close.

This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the need to reconsider prospective regulations from The Department of Energy (DOE). As attested throughout the hearing, the current regulatory climate has only increased burdens on small business owners and American consumers. Additionally, this hearing has revealed that The Department of Energy (DOE) needs to reevaluate their commitment to the success of Main Street America. Congress must fortify their ability to stymie detrimental policies from the Biden Administration.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SBA'S OFFICE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

On November 14, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled, "Oversight of the SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development" to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Small Business Associations (SBA) entrepreneurial development programs. This hearing was gaveled in by Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne (R–TX).

The sole witness for this hearing was Mr. Mark Madrid—the Associate Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED) at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Following member opening remarks and introduction of the witness, discussion began regarding the challenges small business owners face today and what SBA programs are doing to alleviate these burdens. The witness was probed on the merits of duplicative programs, the potential release of business owners' personal information through OED programs, and the lack of SBA employees working physically in the office. The crux of the discussion was to ensure that the Small Business Associations (SBA) Resource Partners continue to provide services that will assist small businesses while also protecting taxpayer dollars.

This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the need to maintain oversight of governmental agencies. The SBA has a track record of heedlessly spending tax dollars and the programs they champion, especially offered by the Office of Entrepreneurial Development, are continuing downwardly. The SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development needs a revitalization that fully considers and prioritizes the economic success of Main Street America.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: MEMBER DAY

On November 30, 2023, at 10:00 AM ET, The House Committee on Small Business held a Full Committee hearing titled, "House Committee on Small Business: Member Day" to allow Members who do not sit on the Committee to discuss critical issues facing small businesses throughout America. This hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX–25).

The panel of Members included The Honorable Jill Tokuda (D–HI–2), The Honorable Ed Case (D–HI–1), The Honorable Jen Kiggans (R–VA–2), and The Honorable Blake Moore (R–UT–1).

Following Committee Member opening remarks each Representative was given five minutes for their testimony. Congresswoman Jill Tokuda spoke about the devastating August 8th, 2023, Maui wildfires impacts on small businesses throughout Hawaii. She then urged the committee to support her bill, Micro-enterprise Assistance and Urgent Investment for Supporting Trade, Recovery Operations, and Neighborhood Growth or the "MAUI STRONG" Act. Next Congressman Ed Case reiterated the economic issues Hawaii is facing after the recent natural disaster. He then discussed his soon to be introduced bill, the HEAL Maui Act and asked for committee collaboration. The Honorable Jen Kiggans spoke next about her Investing in VETS Act, which seeks to help make veteran-owned small businesses more competitive. Congressman Blake Moore gave the final testimony in which he spoke on the bipartisan legislation that he is a part of, H.R. 3383, the Employee Equity Investment Act of 2023. This Act aims to provide benefits to local economies by expanding the opportunity for employee-owned businesses.

This hearing highlighted the importance of hearing the stories from constituents of Members who do not sit on the Committee. The Testimonies that were shared can help bring new insight and prospective to the Committee going into the New Year.

A YEAR IN REVIEW: THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS IN AMERICA

On December 12, 2023, at 10:00 AM ET, The House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled, "A Year in Review: The State of Small Business in America" to hear from small business owners from across America about the impacts 2023 has had on their businesses. This hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. James (Randy) R Thompson—the President of Pal-Con, Ltd, Mr. Daniel A Grech—the Founder and CEO of BizHack Academy, Mr. Nicholas Boyle—the CEO of Northern Keystone Towing and Recovery, and Dr. Tammira Lucas—the CEO of The Cube Cowork and an Assistant Professor at Coppin State University.

Following Member opening remarks and introduction of the witnesses, each witness shared a testimony about the struggles they have faced with their respective businesses this past year. Discussion then began with the obstacles for entrepreneurs in 2023 including inflation, high interest rates, and regulatory burdens. Witnesses were questioned about the state of the economy and the labor shortages throughout the country.

This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the importance of hearing entrepreneurs' experiences. Small businesses are the heartbeat of our communities, and it is imperative that Congress prioritizes their concerns.

SECOND SESSION OF THE 118TH CONGRESS

CRIME ON THE RISE: HOW LAWLESSNESS IS IMPACTING MAIN STREET AMERICA

On January 11, 2024, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled "Crime on the Rise: How Lawlessness is Impacting Main Street America" to discuss how the increase of crime has affected an array of small businesses nationwide. This hearing aimed to amplify the voices of small business owners who refute the claim that violent crime is decreasing. Additionally, the hearing highlighted the need to quell the ever-changing police policies since they are proving to be futile. The hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (TX).

The panel of witnesses included Ms. Liora Rez—the Executive Director of Stop Antisemitism, Mr. Gerald "Jerry" Scott—the President and CEO of Elmer's Restaurants, Inc., Chief Reuben J. Roach—the Chief of Police at the City of Norwich (NY) Police Department, and Dr. John Roman—a Senior Fellow from the University of Chicago.

Following Member opening remarks and the introduction of witnesses, the discussion on how crime has affected each respective witness and their industry ensued. Ms. Rez's testimony began by shedding light on the unprecedented rise of antisemitism Jewish businesses and business owners have faced following the Hamas attacks on October 7th. Mr. Scott's remarks were surrounding the inability to reinvest and grow businesses due to a ballooning criminal presence in the numerous communities his franchises are located in. The remaining testimonies were concentrated on the

incongruency between the reported criminal statistics and actual number of crimes occurred.

This hearing was a call to action to limit changes to sensible police policies and to heighten awareness surrounding antisemitism. Small business owners are faced with a growing list of challenges—the rise of violence and prejudiced based crimes must be mitigated.

UNLEASHING MAIN STREET'S POTENTIAL: EXAMINING AVENUES TO CAPITAL ACCESS

On Thursday, January 18, 2024, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Unleashing Main Street's Potential: Examining Avenues to Capital Access" to broaden the conversation on which challenges continue plaguing small business owners nationwide. This hearing was gaveled in by committee chair, Rep. Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Kevin O'Leary—the Chairman of O'Leary Ventures, Ms. Jill Bommarito—the Founder and CEO of Ethel's Baking Company, Mr. Douglas Holtz-Eakin—the President of the American Action Forum (AAF), and lastly, Mr. Everett Sands—the Founder and CEO of Lendistry.

Pursuant member opening remarks and witness testimonies, the panel began expounding on how access to capital has perpetuated economic headwinds for small businesses of different stature and industry. Additionally, each of the witness, regardless of political affiliation, all admitted that the ballooning interest rates have stymied their abilities to receive additional loans.

The next segment of the hearing revolved around banking regulations that have forced regional and community banks to severely tighten their lending standards. This is in part due to the growing proposal to switch American banking standards to match those utilized outside of the US. The proposed rulemaking would replace U.S. banks' current capital framework with an international standard issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, known as Basel III.

This hearing was an important reiteration on how the Biden Administration continues to propose rules and regulations that marginalize small businesses. The current regulatory environment has, and will only continue hurting Main Street America.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: REVIEWING THE SBA'S SMALL BUSINESS SIZE STANDARDS

On February 6, 2024, at 10:00, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled, "Under the Microscope: Reviewing the SBA's Small Business Size Standards" to analyze the consequences of The Small Business Administrations (SBA) size standards on small business contractors. This hearing was gaveled in by Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Jay V. Lambke—The President of Government Acquisitions Inc., Mr. Brad Moore—the CEO of Sterling Computers, Mr. Andrew V. Christ—Chief Operating Officer of Compass Constructors, and Ms. Erin Allen—President of Contemporaries Inc.

Following Member opening remarks and the introduction of witnesses, discussion began on how the proposed small business size

standards offered by SBA will negatively impact small business owners. The panel of witnesses explained how the metrics placed by the SBA to determine size standards are outdated and need redevelopment. Members then continued probing witnesses about the impacts of losing the status of "small business". The hearing closed with conversation on proposed changes and considerations the SBA should pursue.

This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the need to reconsider prospective size standards from The Small Business Administration (SBA). As attested throughout the hearing, these changes would only increase burdens on Main Street America. It was evident, from witnesses on either side of the political spectrum, that these standards could jeopardize a company's business model and success. The Small Business Administration (SBA) needs to reevaluate the small business size standards to allow continued success for American entrepreneurs.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF EPA REGULATIONS ON MAIN STREET

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Impact of EPA Regulations on Main Street" to explore how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues their trend of burdensome regulations and economic pressures on small businesses and consumers alike. This hearing was gaveled in by committee chair, Rep. Roger Williams (TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Brandon Ferris—the Vice President of Domestic Economic Policy at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), Ms. Cye Cooper Wagner—the Executive Vice President of Cooper Oil & Gas, Dr. Lishan Aklog—the Chairman & CEO of PAVmed Inc., and lastly, Mr. Michael Green—the Director of Climate and Energy Policy at the American Sustainable Business Network.

After Members opened with remarks, the witnesses provide testimony on how their business operations have been plagued with challenges such as persistent inflation and burgeoning interest rates. Additionally, the Biden Administration is responsible for constraining small businesses with never-ending regulations—with the main focus being the EPA.

This hearing was crucial because it is a continuation of one of the committee's main priorities—dissecting the unwarranted overregulation conducted by federal agencies. The EPA, amongst many others must be held accountable.

REDUCING MISMANAGEMENT: GAO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SBA

On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, the House Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Reducing Mismanagement: GAO Recommendations for Improving the SBA" in order to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) recommendations to improve the management and procedures of the Small Business Administration (SBA). This hearing was gaveled in by full committee chair, Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX).

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent, nonpartisan government agency that operates within the legislative branch. Some of their key functions include auditing, evaluating, and investigating the services provided by the United States federal government. The GAO primarily serves as a congressional watchdog. The two witnesses were Dr. Courtney LaFountain—the Acting Director of the GAO, and Ms. Johana Ayers—the Managing Director of the GAO.

Following Member opening remarks and witness testimonies, a rather futile discussion ensued surrounding the nature of the GAO recommendations and the status of their implementation. The witnesses elaborated that their office has a running system of recommendations which are oftentimes NOT adhered to by the SBA. The witnesses also explained that the SBA is not adequately utilizing their resources and efforts in order to prevent further waste, fraud, and abuse.

This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the bureaucratic deficiencies that have plagued the Biden Administration. The SBA under current federal purview, are continuing to prove their inefficiency. This hearing served to remind Members that the need for oversight of the SBA is reaching a breaking point.

CONDUCTING OVERSIGHT: TESTIMONY FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM ET, the House Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Conducting Oversight: Testimony from the Small Business Administrator" to probe the SBA'S Administrator, The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman, by meticulously examining both the operations and budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025). This hearing was brought to order by full committee Vice Chairman, Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R–MO).

Since its establishment in 1953, The Small Business Administration (SBA) has played a massive role in initiating, expanding, and fostering resilient businesses nationwide. However, recently it has veered off course from this mission and is currently grappling with its workload. In President Biden's Fiscal Year 2025 budget, the SBA has proposed a $1.46 billion budget, marking a 20 percent rise from the FY2023 level.

Pursuant to Member opening remarks and witness testimony, Administrator Guzman provided insights into the rationale behind this increase and outlined the SBA's strategies to ensure efficient use of taxpayer funds. It was clear from her testimony and responses that the SBA has not adequately provided solutions to tackle the insurmountable outstanding debt.

Additionally, Ms. Guzman was interrogated on the SBA's "work-from-home" policy in which she presented the committee with an incongruous reporting that does not match previous disclosures from other members of her department.

This hearing was a clear indication that the Small Business Administration (SBA) is struggling to manage its workload effectively. Simply adding more responsibilities or funding is not the solution, rather, it requires a strategic approach focused on curtailing wasteful spending, eliminating unnecessary activities, and having the

workforce back in the office. This hearing highlighted the committee's unwavering commitment to Main Street America by holding the SBA accountable for their lack of efficiency and integrity.

TAX DAY: EXPLORING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF HIGH TAXES AND A COMPLEX TAX CODE

On April 10, 2024, the Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development will hold a hearing titled "Tax Day: Exploring the Adverse Effects of High Taxes and a Complex Tax Code" The purpose of this hearing was to investigate how expiring provisions, elevated tax rates, and a convoluted tax code has adversely affected small businesses nationwide. Small businesses are essential drivers of economic growth, innovation, and job creation.

The panel of witnesses included Dr. Aaron Hedlund, Associate Professor of Economics, Purdue University and Research Director, America First Policy Institute, Mr. Raymond Huff, President, HJB Corporation, Mr. Chuck Wetherington, President, BTE Technologies, LLC and Mr. Walter Rowen, President, Susquehanna Glass Co.

Following opening remarks and witness introductions, discussion began on the current condition of economy. The hearing focused on how high taxes can suffocate any business, especially small businesses. How, small businesses face harsh economic headwinds. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act fundamentally proved that lowering taxes is good for all Americans, small businesses, and the American economy. The Committee discussed how Congress must work to ensure the tax code is working for our nation's entrepreneurs, not against them.

The hearing was crucial in order to hear the testimony of those who are impacted by the tax code. By focusing on these areas, there is potential for significant improvement in the labor market, ultimately benefiting both small businesses and the broader economy.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: EXAMINING FINCEN'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT

On Tuesday, April 30, 2024, the House Committee on Small Business conducted a full committee hearing titled "Under the Microscope: Analyzing FinCEN's Execution of the Corporate Transparency Act." The objective of the hearing is to assess how FinCEN's Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) rule affects small businesses and other related qualms with the Corporate Transparency Act (ACT). This hearing was gaveled in by the committee's chairman, Rep. Roger Williams (TX).

The panel of witnesses contained, Ms. Carol Roth—a small business expert and owner, Mr. Roger Harris—the President of Padgett Business Services, Mr. Timothy M. Opsitnick—the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Technology Concepts & Design, Inc. (TCDI), and Mr. Gary Kalman—the Executive Director of Transparency International US (TI US).

Following Member opening remarks and witness introductions, discussion began on how FinCEN's execution of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) has led to a significant uptick in the vol-

ume of information demanded from businesses, thereby imposing extra regulatory responsibilities on small businesses nationwide. As the dialogue progressed, the panel then elucidated the negative consequences regarding FinCEN's implementation of the "Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI)" rule.

The BOI rule—which mandates companies conducting business in the United States must report information about the individuals who ultimately own or control them—is overly vague and is harmful for small business compliance. Furthermore, the witnesses delved into how the BOI rule poses serious privacy and safety concerns given the substantial increase in data anticipated to be gathered by FinCEN agencies.

This hearing was an important reiteration that the Biden Administration continues to fail at appropriately balancing national security concerns with the effect these rules will have on small businesses. Numerous businesses are unfamiliar with FinCEN and now face substantial fines if they fail to adhere to these new mandates. The federal government ought to prioritize making the aspiration of owning and operating a business more financially viable for Americans. The commitment to curbing criminal behavior should not come at a cost to law-abiding businesses owners.

STIFLING INNOVATION: EXAMINING THE IMPACTS OF REGULATORY BURDENS ON SMALL BUSINESSES IN HEALTHCARE

On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Stifling Innovation: Examining the Impacts of Regulatory Burdens on Small Businesses in Healthcare." The purpose of this hearing is to examine the challenges small businesses face as well as the legislative barriers in the healthcare industry. This hearing was gaveled in by committee chairman, Rep. Roger Williams (TX).

The panel of witnesses contained the following: Dr. Brian J. Miller, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H—an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Dr. David Anthony Eagle, M.D.—an oncologist & the Chair of Legislative Affairs and Patient Advocacy of the Community Oncology Alliance, Mr. William J. Newell, J.D.—the Chief Executive Officer of Sutro Biopharma, Inc., and Dr. Diana Zuckerman—the President of the National Center for Health Research.

Following opening remarks from Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Velazquez, and the witnesses, discussion proceeded on the increasing regulations, burdensome reporting requirements, rising costs, and red tape across federal agencies. These factors have hindered success in the healthcare industry by forcing physicians to shutter private practices and consolidate to industry conglomerates. With relations to the Biden Administration, the panel's ire was directed mainly towards the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and their ineffectiveness.

The FDA, the chief federal agency responsible for promoting food and drug standardization and supervision, has stymied the healthcare sector by layers of bureaucracy and regulations. This has hindered the capacity of small businesses to innovate within their space but more importantly limited the availability and accessibility for numerous medical treatments. Consequently, this has

significantly increased the costs of care while compromising the quality.

In conclusion, this hearing succeeded in emphasizing the need for the FDA to properly balance between safeguarding human health and fostering innovation and progress. The current regulatory climate of the healthcare industry proves that there is a correlation between the involvement of small businesses, costs to the consumer, and quality of healthcare. Across this sector and a myriad of others, the Biden administration has forced small businesses out of the driver's seat continually at the expense of the everyday American taxpayer.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: REVIEWING KEY SBA PROGRAMS WITH ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FROST

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Under the Microscope: Reviewing Key SBA Programs with Associate Administrator Frost." The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony solely from the Associate Administrator of the SBA's Office of Capital Access, Ms. Katie Frost, and to inquire about ongoing issues within the primary SBA lending programs. The hearing was chaired by full committee chairman, Rep. Roger Williams (TX).

Since the beginning of the 118th congress, the House Committee on Small Business has prioritized the oversight of the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the auxiliary programs and offices it affiliates. One of the main offices of contention is the SBA's Office of Capital Access (OCA). The OCA is primarily tasked with expanding the availability of capital for small businesses that are unable to secure funding through traditional means, as well as disaster relief assistance in the form of home and business loans.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, the SBA altered a collection of loan standards and requirements in an effort to placate small businesses from a further financial calamity. While the practice aided thousands of businesses nationwide, it was inundated by unprecedented levels of fraudulent applications that awarded over $600 billion of taxpayer money.

Following standard hearing protocol, Ms. Katie Frost was asked a myriad of questions regarding the SBA's programmatic integrities, lending capacity, and certain reckless policy changes. Though the conversation continued, the depth of information provided by Ms. Frost was cursory at best.

This hearing was crucial for the House Committee on Small Business as they continue holding the SBA accountable for their inefficiency. Given that the SBA has attempted to expand their lending authority, the OCA still needs considerable improvements to their functions and processes before any additional funding or resources are allocated towards the SBA.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS: EXAMINING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO CONSIDER SMALL BUSINESSES

On Wednesday, May 22, 2024, the Committee on Small Business convened a hearing titled "Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Biden Administration's Failure to Consider Small Businesses." The hearing aimed to investigate the effects of the Biden Adminis-

tration's stifling regulatory agenda and to explore avenues of relief for small businesses. Additionally, this hearing addressed the widespread noncompliance of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) throughout the Biden Administration.

The panel of witnesses included The Honorable Paul Ray—the Director of the Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation, Mr. Dan Goldbeck—the director of regulatory policy at the American Action Forum, Mr. Rob Smith—a senior attorney for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), and Mr. Todd Phillips—an assistant Professor at Georgia State University. The hearing was presided over by full Committee chair, Rep. Roger Williams (TX).

Following opening remarks from both Members and witnesses, discussion ensued on how the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), as currently written, is failing small businesses. The Regulatory Flexibility Act—signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on September 19, 1980. The RFA mandates that federal agencies assess the impact of their regulations on small businesses and explore alternatives that achieve the rule's objectives without excessively burdening these businesses.

Under the Biden Administration the RFA has proven to be a check the box exercise and needs legislative strengthening. The cumulative effect of current regulations costs businesses too much and is coupled with millions of paperwork hours. Moreover, businesses are being forced to divert their essential resources that could have otherwise been reinvested.

In the hearing, the panel of witnesses maintained the same tone of distaste for the current regulatory environment. Though certain interjections were made praising the need for regulations, ultimately Members and witnesses were in consensus that the RFA's impact has waned as the costs of running a business has waxed.

This hearing was important as it continued the Committee's objective to hold the Biden Administration accountable for harming Main Street America. Re. This hearing was another step forward to address concerns of small businesses nationwide.

WEAPONIZING FEDERAL RESOURCES: EXPOSING THE SBA'S VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS

On Tuesday, June 4, 2024, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Weaponizing Federal Resources: Exposing the SBA's Voter Registration Efforts." The purpose of this hearing was to examine the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) involvement in registering voters in the State of Michigan. The hearing was gaveled by Committee Chairman, Rep. Roger Williams (TX).

The collection of witnesses included Ms. Eliane Parker—President, Job Creators Network Foundation, The Honorable Diego Morales—Secretary of State, Indiana, Mr. Stewart Whitson—Senior Director of Federal Affairs, Foundation for Government Accountability, and Ms. Lisa Danetz—Advisor, Lisa Danetz Consulting.

On March 19, 2024, the SBA announced a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Michigan Department of State to promote civic engagement and voter registration in Michigan. As part of this Committee's commitment to the small business commu-

nity, an investigation was launched to investigate why the SBA would divert resources away from Main Street so it can focus on voter registration in a battleground state.

By involving the SBA in federal elections, it potentially violates constitutional principles and creates serious concerns relating to executive overreach. The United States was founded on the ideal that splitting power between coequal branches of government and the states would create a strong system with minimal opportunity for corruption or tyranny. If a president and their agencies were permitted to freely involve themselves in elections, they could influence the election process in crucial states to attain a more favorable result in the election.

After the SBA's announcement on its voter registration initiative, an online journalist released a video of a senior SBA official openly discussing the SBA's involvement with President Biden's re-election campaign. This video raised additional concerns with the Committee, and amplified existing questions about the improper, inappropriate, and perhaps unconstitutional nature of the MOU with the State of Michigan. Statements made in this video also raised concerns in this Committee regarding the use of taxpayer funds for the SBA and the Administrator's travel.

As small businesses continue to suffer due to failed Bidenomics, this hearing provided an opportunity for members to hear from election and small business experts on the impact the SBA meddling in voter registration will have on the small business community.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: EXAMINING THE CENSORSHIP INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES

On Wednesday, June 26, 2024, the Committee on Small Business conducted a hearing titled "Under the Microscope: Examining the Censorship-Industrial Complex and Its Impact on American Small Businesses." The hearing aimed to explore how the Censorship-Industrial Complex is affecting American small businesses, particularly regarding their revenue streams and freedom of speech. This hearing was brought to order by Committee Chairman, Rep. Roger Williams (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Ms. Jenin Younes—a member of the Litigation Counsel at the New Civil Liberties Alliance, Mr. Benjamin Weingarten—an Investigative Journalist & Columnist for RealClearInvestigations & RealClearPolitics, Ms. Carrie Sheffield—a Senior Policy Analyst at the Independent Women's Forum, and Dr. Mary Anne Franks—a law professor at the George Washington University Law School.

Following Member opening remarks and witness testimony, discussion began on the censorship initiatives the federal government has green-lighted over recent years. These initiatives are said to have originated from the highest levels of the White House—involving at least a dozen federal agencies. Government officials, including President Biden—have framed these efforts as attempts to combat "misinformation." The overwhelming majority of the speech that has been muzzled has been right-leaning and/or conservative. Furthermore, government actors have used threats, coercion, and influence on private social media companies to achieve their cen-

sorship goals—as seen through The State Department's Global Engagement Center (GEC) and their practices for example.

A major theme of the hearing was the government's support of watchdog companies that police what is considered misinformation. Companies like NewsGuard and the Global Disinformation Index (GDI) specialize in deciphering the "credibility" of news outlets. NewsGuard and GDI informs readers and advertisers which "websites they can trust."

In a time where trust in mainstream media has deteriorated, small independent media outlets are more important than ever. Silencing dissenting voices in the name of democracy is wrong. The information provided by the witnesses granted insight into the government agencies silencing Americans and putting them out of business for speaking against the accepted narrative. The Federal government is orchestrating a suppressive monopoly on ideas by putting dissenters out of business.

MAIN STREET REALITIES: EXAMINING THE CURRENT ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE IN AMERICA

On Wednesday, July 10, 2024, the Committee on Small Business conducted a hearing called "Main Street Realities: Examining the Current Economic Landscape in America." This hearing aims to explore the condition of the small business economy, featuring testimonies from small business owners and industry experts about the numerous challenges small businesses have faced under the Biden Administration. This hearing was gaveled in by full committee Chairman Roger Williams (TX).

The panel of witnesses included Ms. Hazel Davis—the Vice President, Compliance Manager & Corporate Responsibility Officer of Jefferson Bank, Mr. Steve Martinez—the President of Tradewinds and General Contracting, Inc, Mr. J.D. Ewing—the Chairman and CEO of COE Distributing and lastly, Mr. Tom McCarthy—the Vice President and Co-Founder of Motiv Space Systems.

Following Member opening remarks and witness introductions, discussion began on the current condition of economy and the barriers created by incessant regulations and inflation. The panel expressed that small business owners are finding it increasingly difficult to secure financing from traditional lenders, mainly due to persistently high interest rates. Small businesses are struggling to obtain loans from large, mid-sized, and even small regional banks, which have traditionally been crucial sources for their financing.

In addition to dwindling financial resources, small businesses have been plagued by overregulation. With over 900 hundred regulations costing businesses more than a $1.6 trillion, small businesses have faced an uphill regulatory battle since the day Biden took office. As attested, the constant addition of regulations has drastically hindered the ability for small businesses to grow operations and expand hiring.

The House Committee on Small Business continues to advocate against the Biden Administration's reckless policies. This hearing aimed to amplify the voices of small businesses that are often unheard and unconsidered.

MAIN STREET HOLDING THE SBA ACCOUNTABLE: TESTIMONY FROM SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR GUZMAN

On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, the Committee on Small Business convened a hearing titled "Holding the SBA Accountable: Testimony from Small Business Administrator Guzman." The hearing conducted the oversight necessary to ensure the SBA complies with the Committee's requests and returns the SBA to its role of helping small businesses. The SBA is intended to aid small businesses and represent their interests in the federal government. Despite its intended role, the current SBA leadership has decided to focus on other priorities.

The witness was The Honorable Isabella C. Guzman—the Administrator for the Small Business Association. The hearing was presided over by full Committee chair, Rep. Roger Williams (TX).

Following opening remarks from the Chair, Ranking Member, and the Administrator. The hearing started by discussing—the SBA's decision to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Michigan to help register voters ahead of the election. Not only is this far outside the scope of what the Small Business Administration (SBA) should be engaged in, but Federal agencies shouldn't be using taxpayer resources to insert themselves into the election process.

Early last year, the SBA reduced the prudent lending standards within the SBA's flagship 7(a) loan program. While the SBA has touted that it has made more loans to America's small businesses, we have learned that data from the SBA lender portal indicates the early default rate has tripled since the prudent lending standards were stripped in the 2023 Biden-Harris SBA policy changes.

In the hearing, the Administrator failed to answer the first two questions from the Chairman when he asked about the SBA warning the White House about the damage their regulations are doing to the struggling small businesses in America and who is to be held responsible. Rather, she dodged the questions, insisting that she had touched base with local small businesses and heard their views on these issues herself.

Throughout the hearing, Members expressed concern about how the agency is unwilling and unable to produce documents responsive to the Committee's oversight requests.

As our Nation's small businesses are facing brutal economic headwinds, it is our job to ensure that small businesses have a fighting chance at success. The hearing emphasized how America's job creators have been straddled with more regulations than they can handle and aimed to provide a pathway for the SBA to get back on track.

PART B—SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

FIRST SESSION OF THE 118TH CONGRESS

THE END OF RELATIONSHIP BANKING? EXAMINING THE CFPB'S 'SMALL BUSINESS LENDING DATA COLLECTION' RULE

On March 28, 2023, the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing titled, "The End of Relationship Banking? Examining the CFPB's 'Small Business Lending Data Collection' Rule." The purpose of this hearing was to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) proposed rule that would attempt to implement Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Witnesses for the hearing were Mr. Troy Peters, President, and CEO, JBT Bank on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers, Mr. Lucas White, President, The Fountain Trust Company on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America, Mr. Michael Wilson, Chief Experience Officer, Members 1st FCU on behalf of The National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions and Ms. Luz Urrutia, Chief Executive Officer, Accion Opportunity Fund.

At the hearing, members asked a series of questions directed to the four witnesses examining how this rule could negatively impact small business across out country. The witnesses explained how the Small Business Lending Data Collection' Rule could damage relationships between local small businesses and community lenders, create an overwhelming compliance burden to the smallest financial institutions, and lastly, how this rule may exceed the CFPB'S statutory authority.

There are several concerns with the CFPB's proposed rule as written. The Committee is concerned that this rule may affect access to and the cost of credit for small businesses and that it will be overly burdensome for small financial institutions to implement.

HIGHLIGHTING THE ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

On March 29, 2023, the Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chain held a hearing titled "Highlighting the Role of Small Businesses in Domestic Energy Production" The purpose of this hearing was to hear stories directly from small business owners about the federal policy challenges and concerns they face as domestic energy producers in the United States.

Witnesses for the hearing were Mr. Lucas Gjovig, President of GO Wireline, Mr. Nick Powell, Chairman and Owner of Colt Energy, Mr. Ed Cross, President of Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association and Mr. Dan Conant, Founder and President of Solar Holler.

At the hearing, members asked a series of questions directed to the four witnesses examining how the Biden Administration has negatively impacted the oil and gas industry. The witnesses discussed how they face discrimination and opposition against investment in the fossil fuel industry and permitting reform. The witnesses noted the positive effects of increasing the production of energy domestically to restore our country's energy security.

Small energy producers face several challenges in today's economy including access to capital, permitting, and other regulatory burdens. The Committee will continue to examine policies that can help small American energy firms prosper.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS OF SBA PROGRAMS

On April 19, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing titled "Office of Inspector General Reports to Congress on Investigations of SBA Programs" to examine the issues surrounding the Small Business Administration (SBA) as well as the Inspector General's reporting on the challenges the agency continues to face. Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne (R–TX) chaired the hearing.

The witness for the hearing was the Honorable Hannibal "Mike" Ware, the Inspector General of the SBA. Mr. Ware was sworn in as Inspector General on May 24, 2018, following confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

After opening statements from Members and the witness, questions ensued probing the Inspector General on the status of the management challenges at the SBA in addition to the fraud found in COVID Relief Programs. Congresswoman Van Duyne commenced the discourse by inquiring on the SBA's decision not to collect PPP loans under $100,000 and continued to inspect the SBA's ability to manage loan portfolios of the similar magnitude. After a series of responses from the Inspector General, Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (R–MO) and Chairman Roger Williams (R–TX) posed their questions regarding the rules changes to the SBA's flagship 7(a) program.

The closing dialogue between Members and Mr. Ware surrounded the SBA's request for additional funding in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Ware iterated that the increased funding would be imperative to combat the burgeoning fraud and criminal activity the SBA has been challenged with. The Members responded by expressing their reservations for more funding. With the conclusion of the hearing, it was evident that Members wanted further clarity from the Inspector General regarding the SBA's ability to mitigate procedural, oversight, spending, and fraud challenges.

HELP WANTED: EXPLORING HOW ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO STUDENT DEBT CAN HELP TO STRENGTHEN SMALL BUSINESSES

On April 26th, 2023, The House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development held a hearing titled "Help Wanted: Exploring How Alternative Paths to Student Debt Can Help to Strengthen Small Businesses" to explore alternative career options in lieu of a con-

ventional four-year college degree. The hearing was chaired by Rep. Marc Molinaro (R–NY).

The panel of witnesses for the hearing included: Mr. Erik Elzy: the Assistant Business Manager at The United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, Ms. Patrice Lee Onwuka: a Director at the Independent Women's Forum, Mrs. Meloni Raney, the President, and CEO of TEXO—a construction company who is testifying on behalf of The Associated General Contractors of America and Mr. Bruno Schickel, the President of Schickel Construction.

Pursuant opening remarks and witness introductions, Members began inquiring on the factors that have impeded employment in middle-skill labor markets and how these factors will remain affecting small businesses in the future. Members then continued to probe the panel on which industries have been the most affected and why current measures have been insufficient in mitigating the shortage of employees. Witnesses responded by elaborating that the lack of employment has been perpetuated by the narrative that attending college is requisite for financial success. Thus, many more individuals today are less skilled and heavily in debt. Additionally, enrollment in career-technical education (CTE) schools is constantly decreasing. The latter part of the hearing focused on each panelist's individual backgrounds and what drove them to pursue their vocational routes.

The panelists then provided Members with suggestions on how to promote alternative career options that are not withstanding the need for a college degree. This hearing highlighted the necessity to be more active in exploring options outside of the normal four-year degree to boost employment. Additionally, this hearing underlined the need for an increase in funding for non-conventional schooling such as CTE's and other forms of vocational education.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING AMERICAN INGENUITY: PROMOTING INNOVATION THROUGH THE TAX CODE

On May 11th, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure held a hearing titled "Leveling the Playing Field: The State of Small Business Contracting" to discuss the decline in small business federal procurement across various industries. The hearing was brought to order by the Subcommittee Chairman, Rep. Nick LaLota (R–NY).

The panel of witnesses included Ms. Jackie Ferrari—the Founder and CEO of The American Fashion Network, Ms. Jacqueline K. Lopez—the President of Premier Enterprise Solutions testifying on behalf of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), and Mr. Robert Schroder—the Founder and Managing Partner of SteerBridge.

Following Members opening remarks and the introduction of the witnesses, Members opened the discussion by inquiring on the factors that have perpetuated the decline in small business government contracts and how the Biden Administration has continually failed to meet all their small business contracting goals. The panel was then probed on fraud and eligibility concerns vis-à-vis the self-reporting and self-certification processes that have resulted in inaccurate categorization and improper payments.

This hearing highlighted the need to further the conversation on why the Biden Administration has constantly failed achieving their small business contracting goals and which proactive steps are needed to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

AMERICAN INGENUITY: PROMOTING INNOVATION THROUGH THE TAX CODE

On June 6th, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing titled "American Ingenuity: Promoting Innovation Through the Tax Code" to discuss how changes to R&D expensing and bonus depreciation has impacted a wide variety of small businesses. The hearing was gaveled in by Subcommittee Chairman, Rep. Dan Meuser (R–PA).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Michael Kaercher—the Director of the Climate Tax Project at NYU Law's Tax Law Center, Ms. Julie Masser Ballay—the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Sterman Masser Inc., and Mr. Bill Wydra—the President of Ashland Technologies.

Pursuant Members opening remarks and the introduction of the witnesses, Members opened the discussion by inquiring on the economic challenges each witness respectively faces in their job industry. Witnesses were then probed on how R&D expensing and bonus depreciation has yielded to increases in cash flow and what further changes in tax provision would continue the trajectory. The latter half of the conversation between Members and witnesses surrounded the need to increase innovation in order to maintain competitiveness with China.

The hearing today highlighted how modifying R&D expensing and bonus depreciation tax provisions would alleviate some of the financial burdens on small businesses. Furthermore, in an era where innovation is imperative to maintain our adversaries at bay, Congress must fully consider what is at stake when job creators do not have as many incentives to further innovation.

BURDENSOME RED TAPE: OVERREGULATION IN HEALTH CARE AND THE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

On July 19, 2023, at 9:30, The House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigation, and Regulations, held a hearing titled "Burdensome Red Tape: Overregulation in Health Care and the Impact on Small Businesses" to fully consider the consequences the Biden Administration's continual overregulation has had on small health providers and sole practitioners. The hearing focused on the current regulatory landscape, burdensome reporting requirements, rising compliance costs, and many other factors that are forcing small health providers to diminish. This hearing was gaveled in by Subcommittee Chairwoman, Rep. Beth Van Duyne.

The panel of witnesses included Dr. Henry Anthony Punzi, MD, FCP, FASH—the Medical Director of the Trinity Hypertension & Metabolic Research Institute, Dr. Brian Miller, MD, MBA, MPH—an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and Mr. Matthew Fielder—a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Following Member opening remarks and the introduction of witnesses, the panel was asked how increased regulations will continue adversely affecting their small providers. The group also discussed consolidations of smaller healthcare providers has negatively affected the quality of care, competition, and small business.

This hearing highlighted the need to streamline regulations on small healthcare providers. Additionally, this hearing increased the understanding that small providers bear a disproportionate amount of the regulatory burden and the rising costs associated with federal compliance.

ENABLING SUCCESS: EXAMINING THE COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

On September 13, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing titled "Enabling Success: Examining the Competitive Landscape for Small Businesses" to deliberate on prospective tax & rule changes and their adverse impact on the competitive landscape for US small businesses. The hearing was gaveled in by subcommittee chairman, Rep. Dan Meuser (R–PA).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. James Chung—a Jimmy John's franchisee & CEO of Atlas, Inc., Ms. Kathryn Judge—the Vice Dean for Intellectual life at Columbia Law School, and Ms. Holly Wade—an Executive Director from the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB).

Pursuant Member opening remarks and the introduction of witnesses, discussion ensued on the merits of the rule and tax changes the Biden administration has been idle on. As articulated by the witnesses, interest deductibility is imperative for small business owners to be able to re-invest in their businesses. Furthermore, the panel expressed that cumbersome paperwork, regulatory burdens, and the looming expiry of certain provisions have been causing small business owners to reconsider future investments.

Lastly, Members questioned the witnesses on Basel III regulations—the set of emergency measures enacted as a response to the 2008 financial crisis. These measures allowed for the heightened regulation, supervision, and risk management of banks. Witnesses posited that the Basel III regulations will limit the credit available for small businesses, and ultimately become a major detriment to the access to capital.

This hearing highlighted the need to continue the conversation regarding the lack of effectiveness of the Biden Admiration's forecasted tax and rule changes. There is consensus amongst small business owners and industry experts that the current regulatory climate will only marginalize financial prosperity for small business owners.

SECOND SESSION OF THE 118TH CONGRESS

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURS AND EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

On Tuesday, January 30, 2024, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development held a hearing titled "Pathways to Success:

Supporting Entrepreneurs and Employees with Disabilities" to analyze the contributions made by entrepreneurs and employees with disabilities. This hearing also aimed at deliberating a strategy to further enhance their role in the economy. This hearing was gaveled in by Subcommittee Chair, Rep. Marcus Molinaro (R–NY).

The witnesses for the hearing included: Mr. Keith Wargo—the President and CEO of Autism Speaks, Ms. Iva Walsh—the Owner of Maeve's Place, and Mr. Cody Clark—the Founder and Owner of Cody Clark Magic.

Following Member opening remarks and witness testimonies, discussion ensued on the obstacles that debilitate each entrepreneur from further growing their business. The panel listed federal regulations, improper transportation, and the current loan programs as some of their main unplacated concerns. Additionally, the witnesses expressed that the lack of employability skills and institutional knowledge will continue to hinder the growth for handicapped entrepreneurs and employees.

This hearing was critical because roughly one in four, or 61 million Americans live with a disability. As attested by the witnesses, there is still some work to be done with regards to expanding financial and legislative resources.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: CHALLENGES FACING SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure held a hearing titled "Leveling the Playing Field: Challenges Facing Small Business Contracting." The objective of this hearing was to pinpoint the hurdles encountered by small businesses engaged in government contracting and explore potential remedies for these challenges. The hearing was gaveled in by subcommittee chair, Rep. Nick LaLota (NY).

The collection of witnesses included Mr. Joe Spinosa—the Vice Chair of ADDAPT, Mr. Joe Lipsky—President of Lipsky Construction, and Mr. Bob Taylor—the Owner & CEO of Alliant Healthcare.

Following Member opening statements and witness testimonies, questions ensued on the scarcity and deprecation of small business issued government contracts. Witnesses explained that in the last 10 years alone, the number of small businesses receiving government contracts has reduced by over 50%. The panel continued to expound on how contributing factors, such as the complex federal acquisition system has proved to be the biggest deterrent in acquiring a government contract.

This hearing was important because there is a growing necessity to delve into the difficulties posed by vying for federal contracts. The Biden Administration has a proven record of undermining the importance of small businesses—the lack of government contracts being dispersed is a clear testament.

NAVIGATING REGULATIONS: ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO INVESTING IN SMALL BUSINESSES

On March 12, 2024, the House Committee on Small Business's Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations is hosted a hearing entitled "Navigating Regulations: Alternative

Pathways to Investing in Small Businesses." This hearing aims to delve into the regulatory hurdles American small businesses encounter when seeking capital and the obstacles they encounter when considering alternative investment avenues. The hearing was brought to order by subcommittee Chairwoman, Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R–TX).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Parag Shah—the Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer of Vemos, Ms. Mary Kennedy Thompson—the Chief Operating Officer of Neighborly, and Mr. Jeremy Kress—The Assistant Professor of Business Law at the University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

Following Member opening remarks and witness testimonies, discussion ensued on how the Biden Administration has unremittingly proposed and implemented rules and regulations that continue to yield to more negative consequences. The witnesses mentioned that the drastically increased costs of starting and maintaining a business, have reached an alarming all-time high. Seed capital is simply not sufficient enough for a business to start and prosper.

Furthermore, the panel delved into how the current regulatory environment has forced the SBA and other lenders to tighten the amounts of loans available and the amount rewarded. This has forced, and will continue to force, small businesses to prioritize non-traditional forms of capital such as private equity, venture capital, angel investors, and crowdfunding to name a few.

It was important to hold this hearing due to a collection of reasons. First and foremost, this hearing serves to admonish the Biden Administration for the incessant regulations and cumbersome paperwork they continue to impose. The onerous paperwork alone has been stressed in nearly every hearing the Committee has conducted this congress. Next, this hearing continues the Committee's trend of highlighting the ire from different businesses across various sectors. Time and time again, the Biden Administration through their usage of activist agencies, have stymied the financial prosperity for hardworking American business owners.

As businesses grapple with increasing regulatory costs, they inevitably transfer these expenses to consumers. Although federal regulations ideally safeguard investors, the Biden Administration's regulatory plans are severely hampering American small businesses. The Committee is determined to amplify the voices of these small businesses and will continue to provide solutions for their betterment nationwide.

EXPLORING SBA PROGRAMS: REVIEWING THE SBIC AND SBIR PROGRAMS' IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

The House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, titled "Exploring SBA Programs: Reviewing the SBIC and SBIR Programs' Impact on Small Businesses." The aim of this hearing is to delve into how the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program have influenced small businesses and their ability to spur innovation. This hearing was brought to order by subcommittee chairman, Rep. Dan Meuser (R–PA).

The panel of witnesses included Mr. Angelo Valletta—the President and CEO of Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Ms. Amanda Bresler—the Chief Strategy Officer of PW Communications, Mr. Brett Palmer—the President of the Small Business Investor Alliance (SBIA), and lastly, Mr. Jere W. Glover—the Executive Director of the Small Business Technology Council (SBTC).

Following the Chairman and Ranking Member's opening remarks, each witness provided testimony on the fruitful collaboration SBIR & SBIC programs has fostered through private industry. The panel expressed that unlike large corporations, small businesses don't share the luxury of utilizing debt and equity markets for financing, thus urging Congress to further empower SBICs to help more small businesses with common-sense regulatory relief. Additionally, the panel presented members with a list of constraints and barriers their respective industries face when seeking out SBIR/STTR rewards.

This hearing was crucial because small businesses who are novice to government work, have found major difficulties understanding the confusing language and debilitating regulations present in government funding opportunities. Moreover, as the authorization for the SBIR/STTR program approaches expiration in September 2025, Congress should be poised to deliberate enhancements that could yield to many advantages for small enterprises. This hearing served to spotlight the tangible influence these programs wield on small businesses and their ability to grow.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: EXAMINING THE LANDSCAPE OF VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure held a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity titled "Leveling the Playing Field: Examining the Landscape of Veteran Owned Small Businesses." The purpose of this hearing was to discuss the entrepreneurial spirit of veterans and their contributions to the American economy, as well as the challenges they face as small business owners. This hearing was gaveled in by subcommittee chairman, Rep. Nick LaLota (NY).

The panel of witnesses contained the following: Mr. William J. Belknap Sr.—President of AEONRG, LLC, Mr. Stephen G. Hayduk, P.E.—Managing Member of Hayduk Engineering, LLC, Ms. Stephanie Brown—Founder and CEO of The Rosie Network, and Mr. Jon Tellier—the President of JetCo Solutions.

Following opening remarks from Chairman LaLota, Ranking Member Scholten, Rep. Van Orden, Rep. Levin, and the witnesses, discussion proceeded on the entrepreneurial spirit of veterans, as well as some of the challenges that veterans face when owning and operating small businesses.

The number of small businesses receiving Federal contracts has been cut in half over the past 10 years, in a space where veterans should have plenty of opportunities to thrive. The leadership and entrepreneurship skills our Nation's veterans possess make them excellent small business owners, however the transition back to ci-

vilian life can be challenging. Bureaucratic red tape inhibits veterans from easily navigating the process of starting a successful small business, and this administration needs to be acting swiftly to help our Nation's heroes succeed on Main Street.

In conclusion, this hearing succeeded in determining the best possible ways for the government to support veterans on Main Street and examining barriers to entrepreneurship from the perspective of veteran small business owners. The witnesses provided crucial information that will help ensure that veteran-owned small businesses maintain a competitive advantage in this economy.

EXECUTIVE OVERREACH: EXAMINING THE SBA'S ELECTIONEERING EFFORTS WITH ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS, JENNIFER KIM

On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing titled "Executive Overreach: Examining the SBA's Electioneering Efforts with Associate Administrator of Office of Field Operations, Jennifer Kim." This meeting was convened in room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of this hearing was to examine the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) involvement in registering voters in the State of Michigan. This hearing was gaveled in by Rep. Beth Van Duyne.

The witness for the hearing was Ms. Jennifer Kim, Associate Administrator, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Small Business Administration.

After Members opened with remarks, the witness provided testimony on the SBA's involvement in creating and implementing the MOU and MOA between the SBA and State of Michigan to register voters. Further, members highlighted the apparent partisan nature of the MOU and raised concerns regarding the legality of the program.

This hearing was crucial because small businesses continue to struggle through various economic headwinds. Further, this hearing provided an opportunity for Associate Administrator Kim to further explain what the purpose of this agreement with the state of Michigan is, and why they are pulling resources from small business owners to register voters.

AVENUES TO SUCCESS: EXAMINING WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR EMPLOYEES

On September 25, 2024, the Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development will hold a hearing titled "Avenues to Success: Examining Workforce Training Programs for Employees." The purpose of this hearing was to examine the challenges of the current labor market and examine the resources available to help small business owners expand their labor pool.

The panel of witnesses included Ms. Ashley Gamba—the Executive Director of Community Options Inc., Mr. Frank A. Stento—the Director of Business Development of the International Union of Painter's & Allied, and Mr. Neal Strange—the Director of Education for the Indiana Kentucky Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship & Training Fund.

Following opening remarks from Chairman Molinaro, Ranking Member McGarvey and the witnesses, discussion proceeded about how current labor shortage in the United States is disproportionately affecting small businesses. They shared the bipartisan goal of addressing the skills gap through workforce development and how it is vital to harness the potential of people with disabilities and to also promote skilled trades.

The panel expressed multiple solutions their organizations provided to assist in closing the gap in unemployment, especially for those with disabilities. Ms. Gamba combatted common employer's concerns with taking on employees with disabilities—first by stating that their organization takes on the liability insurance of the individual and second sharing that there tends to be less turn over with these individuals who are seeking to hold these positions long term.

In continuation, Mr. Stento shared an advantage for an apprentice coming in would be they are building up a skilled craft that is in very high demand, highly marketable. Mr. Stange supported this statement by saying he has seen 40 percent growth in 3 years alone inside of their apprenticeship programs. More are involved at the CT level at the high schools and increased partnerships at high schools.

The hearing was crucial in order to hear the testimony of those directly involved with skilled labor and job placement. By focusing on these areas, there is potential for significant improvement in the labor market, ultimately benefiting both small businesses and the broader economy.

PART C—WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT

Of the hearings delineated above, the following were devoted specifically to an examination of programs within the Committee's jurisdiction with a focus on potential mismanagement, waste, fraud and abuse.

HEARINGS ON SBA MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The Committee continued its oversight of the management of SBA through hearings and meetings with agency officials and stakeholder groups. During 2023 and 2024, to date, numerous SBA officials, industry representatives and small business owners were questioned about the operation of SBA programs:

- A series of hearings with the SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman were held on March 23, 2023, March 20, 2024, and September 18, 2024.
- A Subcommittee hearing on the Office of Inspector General's report on SBA programs was held on April 19, 2023.
- A series of hearings reviewing the 7(a) program were held on:
  - May 20, 2023, Associate Administrator Patrick Kelly testified before the Committee on the operations of the SBA's capital access programs.
  - May 27, 2023, the Committee held a hearing discussing lenders experience working with the SBA in the 7(a) program.
- A Committee hearing to review the SBA Office of Inspector General Report on Fraud within the COVID–19 lending programs was held on July 13, 2023.
- A Subcommittee hearing to assess the state of the small business economy was held on September 13, 2023.
- A series of hearings assessing the SBA use of taxpayer resources to register voters were held on:
  - June 4, 2024, with investigators and academics to assess the propriety of the SBA's involvement in voter registration activities.
  - July 24, 2024, Associate Administrator Jennifer Kim testified regarding the Office of Field Operations involvement in voter registration efforts.
- A hearing to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Small Business Associations (SBA) entrepreneurial development programs was held on November 14, 2023.
- A Committee hearing to analyze the consequences of The Small Business Administrations (SBA) size standards on small business contractors was held on February 6, 2024.

- A Committee hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) recommendations to improve the management and procedures of the Small Business Administration (SBA) on March 6, 2024.
- A Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access hearing examining the how the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program have influenced small businesses and their ability to spur innovation was held on April 16, 2024.
- A Committee hearing with Associate Administrator for Capital Access, Katie Frost, investigating ongoing issues within the SBA's Office of Capital Access was held on May 15, 2024.

HEARINGS ON SBA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In the 118th Congress, the Committee continued its focus on SBA's capital access programs. During 2023 and 2024, to date, numerous SBA officials, industry representatives and small business owners were questioned regarding frequent concerns about the struggle for small businesses to access capital to fund their operations. Below is a list of hearings that were held on SBA's capital access programs that were not included above.

- A Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access hearing assessing the impact of CFPB regulations on small business relationship banking was held on March 28, 2024.
- A Committee hearing investigating the alternative means small businesses can use to access capital was held on January 18, 2024.
- A Committee hearing discussing the availability and efficacy of certain public and private resources centered at assisting entrepreneurs was held on June 13, 2023.

HEARINGS ON FEDERAL PROCUREMENT

During the 118th Congress, the Committee continued to examine federal procurement rules as they affect small businesses. Below is a list of hearings that were held on federal procurement programs that were not included above.

- A Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure to pinpoint the hurdles encountered by small businesses engaged in government contracting and explore potential remedies for these challenges was held on February 15, 2024.
- A Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure to discuss the decline in small business federal procurement across various industries was held on May 11, 2023.
- A Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development hearing deliberating a strategy to further enhance their role in the economy was held on January 30, 2024.

HEARINGS ON SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

During the 118th Congress, the Committee continued to examine SBA's Entrepreneurial Development programs. During 2023 and

2024, to date, numerous SBA officials, industry representatives and small business owners were questioned regarding delivery of the entrepreneurial development programs goals. Below is a list of hearings that were held on federal procurement programs that were not included above.

- A Committee hearing investigating the effectiveness and efficiency of the Small Business Associations (SBA) entrepreneurial development programs was held on November 14, 2023.
- A Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development examine the challenges of the current labor market and examine the resources available to help small business owners expand their labor pool was held on September 25, 2024.
- A Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure hearing discuss the entrepreneurial spirit of veterans and their contributions to the American economy, as well as the challenges they face as small business owners was held on July 23, 2024.
- A Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development hearing aimed at deliberating a strategy to further enhance the role of people with disabilities in the economy was held on January 30, 2024.

PART D—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERSIGHT PLAN

Subpart 1—Oversight of Federal Capital Access Programs

7(a) Program

During the 118th Congress, the Committee conducted hearings and investigation into the SBA's flagship 7(a) program. The 7(a) program supports businesses that are unable to find capital elsewhere by connecting them with private sector lenders to issue loans up to $5 million. Depending on the characteristics of the loan, these loans are then guaranteed by the SBA between 50 and 90 percent. The Committee conducted numerous hearings on whether the SBA was properly managing the 7(a) program and the lenders within it.

On May 10 and 17, 2024, the Committee held hearings reviewing recent changes to the 7(a) program and how they will impact small business access to capital. Further, during oversight hearings with agency officials, the Committee investigated the recent expansion of the Small Business Lending Companies in the 7(a) program. During these hearings, the Committee discussed the recent addition of a lender to the program which had recently sold it domestic operations, requiring the SBA to revoke the companies lending license. These hearings also assessed whether the SBA was adequately investing and supporting small businesses through this program.

Building on the Committee's oversight efforts, the Committee debated H.R. 1644, the 7(a) Loan Agency Oversight Act, requires the Office of Credit Risk Management (OCRM) at the SBA to develop and publish an annual portfolio risk analysis for Congress on loan agents within the program on loans where a loan agent is a party to the transaction. Further, the Committee also marked up H.R. 1651, the 7(a) Loan Agency Transparency Act, establishes a registration system with unique identifiers for 7(a) agents to help the SBA's OCRM track and evaluate the performance of 7(a) loans generated through loan agent activity. Combined these changes should improve the functions of, and visibility into the 7(a) program.

Further, as part of the Committee's long-term oversight responsibilities in this program, the Committee continues to monitor that the 7(a) program operates at a zero-subsidy rate. The Committee seeks to ensure that the 7(a) program operates at minimal cost to the taxpayer and properly targets borrowers.

Pandemic Lending Programs

To assist businesses in retaining employees during the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress created numerous programs. The largest of these programs managed by the SBA was the Paycheck Protection

program (PPP). This program provided businesses with fully forgivable loans, provided businesses met the standards of these loans related to employee retention and use of funds. Given the size and urgency of this program, the PPP program was highly susceptible to fraud.

In addition to the PPP, Congress also tasked the SBA with implementing the COVID–19-specific EIDL program. These loans were intended to assist businesses during periods of reduced operation and provided low interest loans for covering expenses. During the 118th Congress, the COVID EIDL program was extensively reviewed and subject to multiple hearings and briefings.

Additionally, two smaller programs, the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant and Restaurant Revitalization Fund were created to provide grants and funds to businesses in specific sectors that were disproportionately impacted by the Pandemic. Through Committee investigation, it was revealed that the nature of these programs as grants contributed to a substantially lower rate of fraud.

During the 118th Congress, the Committee held numerous hearings and multiple briefings with the SBA, SBA OIG, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), and the GAO. These briefings revealed that there was potentially $200 billion in fraudulently issued loans across pandemic programs, including over $60 billion in PPP and over 30 percent of the COVID EIDL program. The Committee conducted oversight to assess the cause of these fraudulent loans, and what systematic inadequacies existed to create such waste. Further, following the SBA electing to end collection on delinquent COVID–19 loans valued $100,000 or less, the Committee began investigating whether this was a valid use of taxpayer funds. Following Committee oversight, the SBA reversed these decisions.

In addition to testimony from the Administrator and senior SBA officials, the Committee held a hearing with SBA OIG Ware on Jul 13, 2024, regarding the total fraud in this program. Further, on September 27, 2023, the Committee held a hearing on how the private sector could be leveraged to collect on pandemic loans.

As a result of these efforts, the Committee debated numerous pieces of legislation. On July 18, 2023, the Committee marked up legislation requiring the SBA OIG to issue a quarterly report on PPP and COVID EIDL fraud and requiring the SBA administrator to issue guidance on the return of PPP funds. Further, On September 21, 2023, the Committee debated a bill prohibiting those convicted of PPP or COVID EIDL fraud from accessing SBA assistance again. The Committee also debated a bill to require the SBA to post a link where individuals could report COVID EIDL and PPP fraud. On January 31, 2024, the Committee marked up the Put America on Commission Act, which would compensate individuals that report COVID EIDL and PPP fraud.

The Committee continues to monitor the management of the PPP program. As this program winds down, and loans are forgiven, it is essential to ensure that the SBA diligently assesses whether borrowers are owed forgiveness for these loans.

Disaster Loan Program

During the 118th Congress, the Committee conducted hearings and oversight into the SBA's disaster loan programs. The SBA offers numerous forms of disaster assistance to both businesses and individuals impacted by declared disasters. During the 118th Congress, the Committee conducted investigations into the disaster programs use of funds and management. The Committee participated in numerous briefings on the status of ongoing and previous disasters to fully understand the SBA's response in these situations.

SBA's disaster loans are an important function of the SBA. Investigations into the SBA management of the COVID–19 portfolio suggest that the SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance struggles to lend funds as responsibly or efficiently as the SBA's Office of Capital Access. The Committee will continue to investigate the use of funds in the SBA's disaster loan programs.

504/Certified Development Company Program

During the 118th Congress, the Committee continued its oversight efforts of the certified development companies (504 loan program). The 504-loan program provides financing for major assets that promote business growth and job creation. These loans are issued through Certified Development Companies and have a maximum amount of $5.5 million.

As part of its oversight efforts, the Committee continues to monitor whether SBA rules, regulations, and guidance result in transparent and reasonable decision making with respect to this program and ensure that Certified Development Companies enforce SBA guidelines and regulations.

Subpart 2—Oversight of SBA and Other Federal Entrepreneurial Development Programs

The SBA offers a number of products, programs, and services intended to assist small business and aspiring small business owners. These programs offer resources, expertise, and support to help entrepreneurs succeed. During the 118th Congress, the Committee devoted specific focus to ensuring that veterans are receiving adequate support in starting businesses. Additionally, the Committee directed a substantial amount of its oversight efforts toward ensuring the efficiency of these programs.

On May 24, 2023, the Committee held a hearing assessing the challenges and opportunities that veterans have when starting a new business. During this hearing, the Committee assessed the role and value of Veterans Business Outreach Centers. The status of VBOC's was discussed in more detail during the Committee's November 23, 2024, hearing.

In addition to the issues faced by veterans, the Committee devoted substantial focus to the issues faced by individuals with disabilities in starting a new business. To that end, the Committee held a hearing on the pathways to success and opportunity for individuals with disabilities.

On November 14, 2023, the Committee held a hearing with the SBA's office of entrepreneurial development to discuss ongoing

issues. During this hearing the potentially duplicative nature of the TRIVE program is potentially duplicative of the work of existing Small Business Development Companies (SBDC). Further, during this hearing it was noted that the SBA's online learning platforms offer similar support to existing private sector resources, but at a substantially higher cost. Lastly, the hearing focused on the substantially higher cost for the Community Navigator program when compared to the SBDC program.

Additionally, the Committee held a hearing on July 26, 2023, to investigate the issues faced by small rural businesses. During this hearing, the lack of resources for rural businesses was discussed in detail. The hearing further examined how small rural businesses could access tools to support their growth.

Building on the Committee's oversight efforts, on May 23, 2023, the Committee marked up H.R. 1730, H.R. 1606, H.R. 3511, and H.R. 1541. H.R. 1730 requires SBDCs and Women's Business Centers (WBCs) to help connect Career and Technical Education (CTE) program graduates with small businesses who are looking for workers. H.R. 1541 adds a requirement that Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) provide information and assistance to small businesses on how to establish and improve apprenticeship programs, work-based learning programs, pre-apprenticeship programs, and job training programs. H.R. 3511 H.R. 1606 codifies the Boots to Business program through 2028. H.R. 3511 require training for federal agencies on increasing contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans. Further, on January 31, 2024, the Committee marked up legislation which would make adjustments to the advisory boards for SBDC's. Further, the Committee debated H.R. 7989 which would provide added opportunities for people with disabilities in small businesses.

The Committee also investigated the extent to which the SBA works with other federal agencies to assist in these entrepreneurial development programs. Through testimony and briefings with the SBA and other Agencies, the Committee found that across all programs, including the entrepreneurial development programs, the SBA struggled to work with other agencies and leveraged this information to increase efficiency and properly target entrepreneurs.

Subpart 3—Oversight of Federal Government Contracting Matters

In addition to its lending and entrepreneurial development programs, the SBA is tasked with ensuring that small businesses have access to federal government contracting opportunities. To that end, during the 118th Congress, the Committee continually assessed the SBA's assistance to businesses in receiving federal contracting.

The Committee held multiple hearings on the challenges small businesses face in receiving and competing for federal contracts, and how the SBA assists these businesses. On May 11, 2023, the Committee held a hearing on the state of small business contracting, where witnesses testified to their experience in competing in federal contracts. These businesses testified that bundling and excessive red tape make contracting with the federal government

difficult, time consuming, and often not profitable. Additionally, on February 15, 2024, the Committee held another hearing where small business owners discussed the difficulties they were facing. Among the most impactful were the 50 percent decrease in federal contracts going to small businesses over the past 10 years, regulations, and the negative impacts of self-certification. Further, on April 16, 2024, the Committee held a hearing on the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. During this hearing the Committee received testimony suggesting that the efficiency of the SBIR program could be improved by reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.

In addition to working with the SBA, the Committee worked closely with other federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, to assess how contracting opportunities could be expanded for small businesses. To that end, Chairman Williams sent the DoD a letter regarding the decrease in small business participation in defense contracting, and how the trend could be reversed.

To build out contracting opportunities for small businesses, the Committee debated numerous pieces of legislation. On January 31, 2024, the Committee debated H.R. 5450 which clarifies that the HUBZone price preference of up to 10% may be used on task orders. The Committee also debated two separate bills aimed at improving the Women Owned Small business program. On April 17, 2024, the Committee debated H.R. 7988 which would require the SBA to account for the number of new entrants into the federal procurement space when it grades agencies for use in its Scorecard. Further, the Committee marked-up H.R. 7987 which would require that contract solicitations are in plain, understandable terms. Additionally, H.R. 8014 would help firms find similar contract opportunities to bid on and publicize an agency's future plans with regard to the canceled solicitation.

SBA is also in charge of setting size standards for different industries which qualify as a small business. On February 6, 2024, the Committee held a hearing on the SBA's size standards and how they impact the ability of small businesses to compete, especially for government contracts. Additionally, in August 2024, the SBA temporarily deactivated its online certification portal so that it could be updated. The Committee found that the SBA was not adequately prepared to update its systems, and this process took longer than anticipated, harming the ability of small businesses to compete for federal contracts while properly certified.

Subpart 4—Oversight of SBA Management

Oversight of SBA management was among the most important focuses for the Committee. To that end, the Committee dedicated substantial time and resources to ensure the SBA was adhering to its mission and respecting the power afforded to it by Congress. Additionally, the Committee investigated the propriety of the SBA's use of resources.

Following the COVID–19 pandemic, many federal agencies, the SBA included, struggled to have employees return for in-person work. Throughout the 118th Congress, the Committee consistently assessed whether SBA staff was coming into the office. This topic was heavily probed during the Committee's December 2023 visit to

SBA headquarters, as well as the during the Committee's March 20, 2024, hearing with Administrator Guzman.

In addition to the issues the SBA had in managing its COVID lending programs, the Committee found that the management of that program was not well tailored to mitigating risk or reducing costs for the taxpayer. Most notably, the Committee exchanged numerous letters and had multiple meetings with the SBA regarding its decision to end collection on delinquent PPP and COVID EIDL loans. Through this process the Committee was able to determine that SBA management did not adequately consider costs and directed too much focus into appearing magnanimous. In the face of this constant vigilance, the SBA relented and resumed collections. Additionally, the Committee investigated the SBA's decision to retain the COVID–19 lending portfolio, instead of considering its sale. The Committee held a transcribed interview with Mr. Kim, Director of the Office of Financial Program Operations. Through the Committee's oversight, it was suggested that the SBA and its management did not adequately consider the potential of selling these loans.

In addition to the wasteful use of resources, Committee oversight efforts found instances where the SBA operated wholly outside of its mission statement. In 2024, the SBA announced a partnership with the State of Michigan to register voters. During the Committee's investigation of this voter registration effort, a video was revealed suggesting that senior SBA staff was indirectly campaigning for the incumbent president through SBA's work. The Committee was substantially concerned about these claims and sought to eliminate concerns of partisanship and waste. During the Committee's June 4, 2024, hearing, Mr. Witson testified that the SBA's voter registration efforts were part of a whole-of-government effort and likely took resources and time away from existing SBA programs to facilitate. The Committee maintained its vigilance on this issue, and to forward this investigation, issued three subpoenas to the SBA seeking testimony and documents related to this effort. In addition to potentially misusing resources to register voters, the Committee found that SBA management struggled to provide the Committee with testimony and documents in a timely and complete manner. The Committee continued these investigative efforts during its July 24, 2024, hearing with Ms. Kim, Associate Administrator for the Office of Field Operations, and during its September 18, 2024 hearing with Administrator Guzman.

The SBA also struggled to adequately manage its disaster fund and communicate with the Committee regarding its needs. Just after Hurricane Helen, the SBA notified the Committee of issues funding its disaster program. Through further investigation, the Committee learned that the SBA had been concerned about its disaster account balances for months before informing the Committee of its immediate needs.

In total, the Administrator appeared before the Committee on March 23, 2023, March 20, 2024, and September 18, 2024. The Administrator also declined an invitation to testify on July 13, 2024. During these hearings numerous issues regarding SBA management were posed. Additionally, the Committee held hearings with other senior SBA employees on July 24, 2024, and May 15, 2024.

During these hearings Ms. Kim and Ms. Frost, respectively, were asked about their responsibilities at SBA, and how they are stewarding taxpayer dollars.

Subpart 5—Oversight of Federal Regulatory and Paperwork Burdens

The regulatory burden faced by small businesses was a key concern for the Committee during the 118th Congress. Small businesses often list paperwork burden and red tape as the driving cause behind their inability to grow or expand. The pace of regulation issued during this was also of substantial concern to the committee. To that end, the Committee, the Committee sent numerous letters and held a number of hearings examining the most costly and burdensome regulations for small businesses.

At the outset of the 118th Congress, the Committee sent letters to nearly every federal agency seeking an explanation for their compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). The Committee continued to send letters to relevant agencies regarding their regulations, in total sending 66 letters. The Committee's investigation revealed a pattern of agencies not adequately considering small business interest in the creation of regulation. Further, the Committee found that the RFA, as implemented, does not sufficiently consider the downstream impacts of regulations on small businesses, especially small business consumers.

Building on these oversight efforts, the Committee held a series of hearings on the cost of regulations. On March 8, 2023, the Committee held the first of its hearings on regulations. Specifically, the Committee heard testimony on the challenges posed to small businesses by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule and its cost for manufacturing and agricultural businesses. On June 22, 2023, the Committee held a hearing on agency compliance with the RFA and heard how agencies fail to adequately consider the needs of small businesses when crafting regulations. On October 19, 2023, the Committee furthered its review of regulations, holding a hearing on the impact of Department of Labor regulations on small businesses. During this hearing, small businesses testified regarding the difficulty of finding and retaining employees due to these regulations. Further, on November 8, 2023, the Committee held a similar hearing on Department of Energy rules. During this hearing, the Committee found that DOE rules disproportionately harm smaller entities. Moreover, on February 14, 2024, the Committee held a hearing on the most costly EPA regulations, where the Committee received testimony from businesses ranging from manufacturing to medical technology on how they impacted by EPA rules. Furthermore, the Committee held a hearing on the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's (FinCEN) interpretation of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) and the Beneficial Ownership Rule. During this hearing, the Committee heard testimony describing the burden these new rules placed on businesses, and explained how FinCEN's interpretation doesn't comport with the CTA's legislative intent.

Based on the scale of the Committee's oversight into the impact of regulations, a number of legislative solutions were offered. On July 18, 2023, the Committee debated the Post It Act, which re-

quires agencies who issue a rule that has a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities to post follow-up guidance to the rule on the SBA's National Ombudsman's website. Further, the Committee debated H.R. 3995 which would ensure that for each fiscal year the cost to small businesses of the administration's rulemaking (including the modification or repeal of a rule) is not greater than zero.

These efforts culminated in a markup intended for bills pertaining to legislation. During this markup, seven deregulatory bills were debated by the Committee. H.R. 8033 which better defines a "factual basis" in section 605(b), which is one of the components agencies have to include with an RFA certification. This bill also requires agencies to show their work when certifying that a bill will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. H.R. 9031 which requires agencies to issue a report to Congress on how they define a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. H.R. 9032 which will strengthen that language so that agencies and Main Street alike can better understand how these rules impact America's businesses. H.R. 9030 which requires agencies to include the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes of small entities primarily impacted by any rule and a plain language summary on the agency's website within three days of the agenda's publication in the Federal Register. H.R. 9085, which limits agencies' ability to delay the review of regulations to only one year as opposed to five and requires an explanation for why they are delaying the review. H.R. 9033 which expands Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) panels to the Department of Labor (DOL). Lastly the Committee debated, H.R. 7198 which adds additional steps that could be taken should the government fail to adhere to the requirements in the RFA.

Subpart 6—Oversight of Federal Tax Policy

During the 118th Congress, the Committee sought to ensure that the federal tax system was amenable to the needs of small businesses. To that end, the Committee held numerous hearings where vital portions of the tax code were discussed. On April 18, 2023, the Committee held a hearing on certain provision of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) expiring. During this hearing, the Committee heard testimony regarding the importance of reintroducing a number of expiring provisions within the TCJA. Further, on June 6, 2023, the Committee held a hearing on how the tax code could be adjusted to better support small businesses and how these adjustments could increase the amount of investment going to small businesses. The Committee further probed these issues during its April 10, 2024, hearing.

In addition to its concerns with the tax code, the Committee also sought to ensure that the SBA properly followed its debt collection strategies. Among these steps is reporting forgiven debt on form 1099C to the IRS. This issue was raised during the Committees March 20, 2024, hearing with Administrator Guzman.

Oversight of Trade and Intellectual Property Policy

During the 118th Congress, the Committee's key concern regarding trade was ensuring that small businesses were able to import the materials they need to operate and export their products to consumers. To that end, on February 28, 2024, the Committee sent a letter to President Biden and the Department of Energy following its decision to withhold export license for newly constructed Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) terminals. These terminals were constructed as a part of the United States' trade policy following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and provided small businesses oil and gas companies a greater ability to export their products. Additionally, Chairman Williams sent a letter the Bureau of Industry and Security on December 5, 2023, regarding its decisions to issue a 90-day pause on firearm export licenses.

Further, on February 26, 2024, Chairman Williams sent a letter to the United States Trade Representative regarding its decision to not include the SBA for its roundtables, and its decision to abandon longstanding U.S. trade policy regarding data and code. Additionally, to help small businesses compete against large and foreign entities, the Committee debated the Main Street Competes Act, which would require the SBA to issue a report on the impact of anti-competitive behavior and regulations undermine small business competitiveness.

SUBPART 8—REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND SPENDING

During the 118th Congress, the Committee conducted hearings and oversight on the offices and programs that fall within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction to find areas that could lead to reduction in the federal deficit. In particular, the Committee assessed whether a reorganization of offices to more critical functions at the SBA would provide a more effective agency at helping small businesses to generate growth.

On May 10th, 2023, the Committee held a full committee hearing titled "Taking on More Risk: Examining the SBA'S Change to the 7(a) Lending Program Part I" to probe a major SBA official on the rule changes surrounding their flagship 7(a) lending program. The disapproval of the rule changes was evident from Members from both sides of the aisle, and that these modified rules to the 7(a) program will compromise the efficiency and effectiveness of the SBA. Members expressed that under the SBA's current direction, fraud will perpetuate, small businesses will lack access to capital, and the taxpayer will continue to bear the costs.

On May 17th, 2023, the Committee held a full committee hearing titled: "Taking on More Risk: Examining the SBA's Changes to the 7(a) Lending Program Part II" to discuss how the Small Business Administration's (SBA) rules and changes to their 7(a) lending program affect small businesses. Members flagged serious concerns about whether the SBA is capable of handling these drastic changes to their flagship lending program. While each rule is problematic individually, the combination of the two is incredibly troublesome. The witnesses expressed concern about the SBA's ability to protect against fraud and conduct proper oversight over the new lenders.

On June 22nd, 2023, the Committee held a full committee hearing titled "Reviewing the SBA's Office of Advocacy Report on the Regulatory Flexibility Act" to examine the SBA Office of Advocacy's progress under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) and continue discussing oversight of federal agency rulemaking. Additionally, this hearing shed light on the challenges the office still faces and the prospective changes that need to be made. This hearing highlighted the need to continue strengthening oversight on the SBA and all its auxiliary offices.

On November 14, 2023, the Committee held a full committee hearing titled, "Oversight of the SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development" to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of the SBA entrepreneurial development programs. This hearing was instrumental in highlighting the need to maintain oversight of governmental agencies. The SBA has a track record of heedlessly spending tax dollars and the programs they champion, especially offered by the Office of Entrepreneurial Development, are continuing downwardly. The SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development needs a revitalization that fully considers and prioritizes the economic success of Main Street America.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, the Committee held a hearing titled "Conducting Oversight: Testimony from the Small Business Administrator" to probe the SBA'S Administrator, The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman, by meticulously examining both the operations and budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025). This hearing was a clear indication that the SBA is struggling to manage its workload effectively. Simply adding more responsibilities or funding is not the solution, rather, it requires a strategic approach focused on curtailing wasteful spending, eliminating unnecessary activities, and having the workforce back in the office.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the Committee held a hearing titled "Under the Microscope: Reviewing Key SBA Programs with Associate Administrator Frost." The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony solely from the Associate Administrator of the SBA's Office of Capital Access, Ms. Katie Frost, and to inquire about ongoing issues within the primary SBA lending programs. Since the beginning of the 118th congress, the House Committee on Small Business has prioritized the oversight of the SBA and the auxiliary programs and offices it affiliates. One of the main offices of contention is the SBA's Office of Capital Access (OCA). Given that the SBA has attempted to expand their lending authority, the OCA still needs considerable improvements to their functions and processes before any additional funding or resources are allocated towards the SBA.

On April 19, 2023, the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing titled "Office of Inspector General Reports to Congress on Investigations of SBA Programs" to examine the issues surrounding the Small Business Administration (SBA) as well as the Inspector General's reporting on the challenges the agency continues to face. The hearing highlighted that the SBA lacks the staff, infrastructure, and the competence to manage its already existing and growing portfolio.

The Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, titled "Exploring SBA

Programs: Reviewing the SBIC and SBIR Programs' Impact on Small Businesses." The aim of this hearing was to delve into how the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program have influenced small businesses and their ability to spur innovation. This hearing was crucial because small businesses who are novice to government work, have found major difficulties understanding the confusing language and debilitating regulations present in government funding opportunities. This hearing served to spotlight the tangible influence these programs wield on small businesses and their ability to grow.

Subpart 9—Programmatic Duplication

During the 118th Congress, the Committee conducted oversight on the SBA for programs that duplicate the efforts of other federal agencies. The Committee notes that § 18 of the Small Business Act prohibits duplication of any effort by the SBA if a program is already offered by another federal agency unless the SBA expressly authorizes the duplication.

On November 14, 2023, the House Committee on Small Business held a full committee hearing titled, "Oversight of the SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development" to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of the SBA entrepreneurial development programs. The SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development has been flagged by multiple SBA OIG reports for having duplicative and unauthorized programs. Additionally, the hearing highlighted that programs within the Entrepreneurship Education Fund and Regional Innovation Clusters (RIC) are duplicative programs that are more costly than their existing alternatives, wasting taxpayer resources. Perhaps the most egregious example of wasted taxpayer funds in a duplicative program is the Community Navigators program that duplicates efforts by SBA's other programs, such as WBCs and Veteran Business Opportunity Centers.

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