

Dahlia Rizk
Buckle Me Baby Coats
733 Turnpike St.
North Andover, MA 01845
drizk@buckleme.coats.com

January 2, 2026

The Honorable Representative Roger Williams
Chair, Committee on Small Business
2336 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business
2302 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: January 7 Hearing on Small Businesses

Chair Williams, Ranking Member Velazquez, and Committee Members,

My name is Dahlia Rizk. I'm a Massachusetts mom of three that invented Buckle Me Baby Coats to make life on the go a little bit easier for parents. I want to make winter car seat safety simple and stress-free for people like me.

As the founder of a small business, I've seen firsthand how recent tariffs have hurt American families and small businesses. Our tariff rate jumped from 7.5% to 45%, triggering sudden cost increases that we can't simply absorb or pass along without pricing parents out. I've taken out loans to keep our coats available and as affordable as possible. Buckle Me Baby Coats ran out of car seat blankets and coats when parents needed them most this year due to the unexpected costs of tariffs.

To date, I've paid more than \$93,000 in tariffs out of my own pocket. This money could have gone toward hiring, product improvements, more inventory, or keeping prices down. Tariffs like these don't punish foreign governments. The tariffs function like a tax on U.S. companies and consumers, especially those buying essential baby and child safety items. I've testified and advocated for targeted relief and exemptions for small businesses, and I appreciate lawmakers who have raised this issue. But we urgently need Congressional action to protect small businesses and keep products like mine affordable and accessible.

Here are two specific actions I respectfully ask you to consider:

1. Support targeted tariff relief or exclusions for small businesses particularly in the parenting and safety space that cannot readily source domestic manufacturing.
2. Hold listening sessions with local small businesses to understand real impacts on families, including price increases, delayed orders, and hiring slowdowns.

Thank you for your willingness to listen to stories like mine.

Sincerely,

Dahlia Rizk, CEO
Buckle Me Baby Coats