

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2561 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Loeffler:

We are writing to request information on the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs (ACVBA). The ACVBA serves as an independent source of information, advice, and policy recommendations for the SBA Administrator, the Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD), the President, and Congress on the issues impacting the approximately 1.6 million veteran-owned businesses, nearly all of which are small businesses.¹ ACVBA is made up of veteran-owned small businesses and representatives of veteran service organizations who provide a direct voice for the veterans business community on the current challenges they face in both the public and private sectors.

On December 10, 2025, the Committee on Small Business (Committee) held a hearing entitled "From Service to Startup: Empowering Veteran Entrepreneurs." A former ACVBA Committee representative, Ms. Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner, the CEO of the Veterans in Business Network, testified to the role and value of the Committee for the veteran business community. She noted that "there is a huge amount of value in [ACVBA] being able to speak to the SBA directly... and connecting veterans and veterans' organizations across the country." She said the Advisory Committee had been in the process of helping more veteran-owned firms connect with private sector corporations and she hoped the work they had done to "create new opportunities for veteran businesses" was not lost.²

Other recommendations heard during the hearing are directly related to the work of the ACVBA. Mr. Christopher Lefebvre, the President & CEO of a service-disabled veteran-owned firm recommended that the SBA work with other federal agencies to establish a National Veteran Entrepreneurship "Navigation Hub," to serve as a single, coherent "front door" that guides every

¹ Press Release, U.S. Census Bureau, Census Bureau Releases New Data About Characteristics of Employer and Nonemployer Business Owners (Nov. 20, 2025) <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2025/business-owner-characteristics.html>; U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., FISCAL YEAR 2025 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (Mar. 2024).

² *From Service to Startup: Empowering Veteran Entrepreneurs: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Small Bus.*, 119th Cong. (2025).

veteran based on stage, need, geography, and aspiration.³ The recommendation echoed one of ACVBA's planned activities for 2025: enhancing the SBA website to better serve veterans seeking business assistance by "creating a centralized location to provide the tools and resources necessary for SDVOSB/VOSB owners to start or run a successful business."⁴

Made permanent in 2008, the ACVBA is required to report to Congress and the President after every fiscal year on its activities and recommendations and is expected to meet not less than three times a year.⁵ On June 11, 2025, the SBA transmitted a report on ACVBA activities throughout fiscal year 2024 highlighting its planned activities for fiscal year 2025. The ACVBA's 2025 planned activities included: (a) recommending potential offset for the financial impacts of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification implementation; (b) revising the Joint Venture Mentor-Protégé Program; (c) exploring the acceptance of SBA's certifications by private corporations to promote greater access to private-sector contracting opportunities; (d) improving consistency in sole-source contracting opportunities across all set-aside categories; and (e) eliminating self-certification in government contracting.⁶

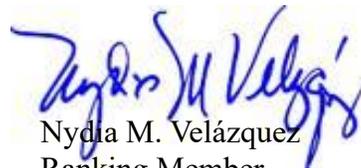
ACVBA's requirements were crafted to ensure the forum remains active and current, however the General Services Administration's Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) database does not show any meetings held in fiscal year 2025.⁷

Across both sides of the aisle, Members of the Committee are committed to supporting our nation's veterans and their families. The ACVBA's forums and products are intended to be a tool that informs the discussion in Congress and the Administration on how we can help create an environment where veteran entrepreneurs have the opportunity to succeed. Accordingly, please provide the Committee with a briefing on the status of the ACVBA, including, but not limited to, its activity in the 2025 calendar year and the SBA's plans for the Advisory Committee through fiscal year 2026 no later than January 9, 2026. We appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Roger Williams
Chairman



Nydia M. Velázquez
Ranking Member

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Pub. L. 110-186, title I, §103(b), Feb. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 625.

⁶ U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS BUSINESS AFFAIRS, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS BUSINESS AFFAIRS FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT (2025).

⁷ GEN. SERVICES ADMIN., FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT (FACA DATABASE),

<https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/s/meeting-members-advisory-reports?recordId=a10t0000001gzyCAAQ&tabset-29055=1> (last visited on Dec. 18, 2025).