



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Roger Williams
Chairman, House Committee
on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
Ranking Member, House Committee
on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce, Position on H.R. 2804 (119), *Protecting Small Business Competitions Act of 2025*

Dear Chair Williams and Ranking Member Velázquez:

On behalf of **the Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce** (AEAW; the Alliance), I am writing to share our perspective regarding H.R. 2804 (119), the *Protecting Small Business Competitions Act of 2025*. While we support expanding opportunities for small businesses to thrive, we are concerned that in its current form this legislation will have unintended but serious consequences for the AbilityOne Program and the thousands of Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities that it employs.

The Alliance is an independent, nationwide coalition of organizations dedicated to modernizing federal procurement, hiring practices, and employment policies to drive greater workforce success for people with disabilities. Of our more than two-dozen members, many are direct employers of people with disabilities, nonprofit organizations fulfilling AbilityOne contracts.

The Alliance believes that applying a broad statutory "Rule of Two" mandate across all federal agencies would undermine the stability of the AbilityOne Program. The predictable nature of these contracts is the bedrock of the program's employment mission. The Federal Acquisition Regulation currently gives small business priority in all contracting, but the AbilityOne Program enjoys no corresponding preference, resulting in an already uneven playing field. **This legislation would exacerbate this imbalance and hinder the future growth of the AbilityOne Program.**

Without clear language protecting the future of AbilityOne, this bill, if enacted, would shift an existing regulatory directive into a true statutory mandate and compel contracting officers to prioritize small business set-asides over established AbilityOne contracts, ultimately reducing employment opportunities for AbilityOne employees, a group of Americans that is historically un- or underemployed at twice the rate of their nondisabled peers and likely to become dependent on federal entitlement benefits. **With respect, we ask that the Committee decline to move forward**

with this legislation until language that would protect the future of the AbilityOne Program can be inserted.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and for your continued leadership on this Committee. If I or any of the members of the Alliance can be of service, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Bartholomew N. Devon, Ed.M, MELP, Esq.
Executive Director
Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce

About The Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce:

The Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce (AEAW) is an independent, nationwide coalition of government contractors, advocates, and seasoned employers dedicated to modernizing federal procurement, hiring practices, and employment policies to drive greater workforce success for people with disabilities. Grounded in real-world expertise and cross-sector collaboration, AEAW works to dismantle systemic employment barriers, optimize federal purchasing by tapping into this highly effective talent pool, and reinforce the AbilityOne Program, the nation's largest economic empowerment engine for Americans with disabilities. By connecting stakeholders across disability policy and workforce development, AEAW serves as a trusted national resource committed to advancing holistic, bipartisan strategies that increase community engagement, reduce benefit dependency, and expand meaningful career opportunities.