



Chairman Roger Williams and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the critical role of immigrant entrepreneurs in our national economy.

I am Rebecca Shi, CEO of the [American Business Immigration Coalition Action \(ABIC\)](#). We represent over 1,700 employers—ranging from Fortune 500 companies and family farms to the small businesses that form the backbone of our economy. ABIC is a bipartisan voice for a simple truth: our economy cannot thrive, and our cost of living will not stabilize, if we continue to disrupt the very immigrants who help build it. Immigrant-owned businesses are absolutely essential to our national economic health and are deeply interconnected with the day-to-day lives of every American.

Our country clearly benefits from them. Entrepreneurship is a fundamental American value that our country takes pride in. It fosters our healthy and competitive economy.

Since February of 2025, small businesses have accounted for an average of [80.4% of hiring or approximately 4 million hires a month](#). Immigrants play an outsized role in this job creation, as they are more likely to start new businesses than the rest of the population.

Immigrants currently account [for nearly 25%](#) of business creation in many of the fastest-growing sectors of the U.S. economy. They represent approximately [24% of all entrepreneurs](#). When it comes to the food we eat and the services Americans rely on, [immigrants comprise](#) 36.8% of employer businesses in accommodation and food services, and 46% of non-employer business owners in transportation and warehousing.

Even within vulnerable populations, this entrepreneurial drive remains clear; in 2021, the TPS population included [more than 38,100 self-employed workers](#) who generated \$1.5 billion in business income. Supporting these entrepreneurs is not merely a matter of immigration policy, it is a critical strategy for American economic growth and long-term stability.

These business owners offer direct, tangible benefits to the daily lives of all Americans, contributing an estimated [\\$1.3 trillion](#) in annual sales while revitalizing neighborhoods across the country. From reopening vacant storefronts to launching thriving restaurants and small businesses, immigrant-led enterprises have strengthened local economies, reversed population decline in some communities, and helped transform, bring life, jobs, culture and foot traffic to once-overlooked neighborhoods.

The American Dream is built on an environment that welcomes innovators, builders, and critical skills that advances this country. Immigrant-owned businesses are a win-win for the American people and economy, creating a lasting 'American Legacy' that strengthens our communities. As leaders who put the interest and security of this country and American people first we must ensure that the path to success remains open for all who wish to build, innovate, and contribute to our shared future.