



STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD, JULY 23, 2026

HEARING: "Oversight of the Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Development"

SUBMITTED TO: U.S. House Committee on Small Business

Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Velázquez, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding the hearing on the SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development.

We at the Texas Venture Alliance, are the largest statewide network amplifying the ecosystem of entrepreneur support. We co-create events and resources for entrepreneurs by working in solidarity with more than 100 organizations across the state annually including: venture capital firms, incubators, accelerators, investor networks, universities, family offices, chambers, economic development corporations, and more. Our network spans actively partnered in more than 15 Texas cities and serves as a resource in many more, from major metros to rural towns. SBA programs are most effective when they complement or use existing networks, making it easier for entrepreneurs to find the right assistance.

Entrepreneurs rarely succeed alone. They need trusted guidance, education, mentors, and meaningful connections to capital and customers. Texas organizations already provide much of this support. SBA's entrepreneurial development programs can achieve their greatest impact by complementing and supporting these established networks, making their resources easier for entrepreneurs to access. And of course we all know the phrase, "small businesses are the backbone of the economy".

As the Committee continues its oversight, we respectfully encourage attention to three principles. SBA programs should be held accountable for measurable outcomes—including businesses started and sustained, jobs supported, capital accessed, contracts secured, and companies positioned for responsible growth—while avoiding administrative burdens that distract organizations from serving entrepreneurs. By empowering trusted local partners to tailor services to their communities and creating a simple, coordinated path to counseling, training, capital, and contracting assistance, SBA can expand access without requiring business owners to navigate federal bureaucracy.

We appreciate the Committee's oversight and believe that clear performance expectations, effective local & statewide partnerships, and a sustained focus on results will help these programs deliver greater value to entrepreneurs and taxpayers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'CS Freeland'.

CS Freeland
Executive Director
Texas Venture Alliance