



**Patricio  
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**John Patricio**

Founder & CEO, Patricio Systems LLC

[www.patricio-systems.com](http://www.patricio-systems.com)

July 9, 2025

**The Honorable Nick LaLota**

Chairman, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Gil Cisneros**

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

**Subject: Statement for the Record – Hearing: “Leveling the Playing Field: The State of Small Business Contracting” (July 8, 2025)**

Dear Chairman LaLota and Ranking Member Cisneros:

As a disabled U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and the founder of Patricio Systems LLC, I respectfully submit this statement for the record in support of protecting and strengthening small business opportunities within the federal marketplace, particularly through the preservation of the Rule of Two.

In October 2021, I sustained a spinal cord injury that left me a paraplegic. This life-altering event tested every part of my resolve. Through the compassionate support of the Department of Veterans Affairs, civilian organizations, and targeted programs for disabled veterans, I was able not only to survive but to rebuild a purpose-driven life. These organizations helped me transition from a hospital bed to leading a technology company that serves public agencies. My forthcoming memoir, *Improvise, Adapt, Overcome*, set for release in two months, shares my journey in full. More details are available at [www.improviseadaptovercome.net](http://www.improviseadaptovercome.net).

Patricio Systems LLC is a California-certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), and federally certified 8(a) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB # 6EN08). We are also proud to hold a GSA Schedule. Thanks to California’s DVBE and DBE programs, we have been able to grow steadily in the California State marketplace. These incentives helped open doors and allowed us to compete meaningfully. With that foundation, we are now positioning ourselves to expand into the Federal sector.

**Patricio Systems LLC**

DVBE/SB (Micro) #1612340 | DBE #41052 | CMAS #3-21-07-2018 | SDVOSB #6EN08 | GSA #47QTCA21D002V



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That transition, however, depends on a fair and accessible procurement environment. The Rule of Two is one of the most critical safeguards that ensures agencies consider small businesses before defaulting to larger contractors. Removing or weakening this rule would tilt the field heavily against small businesses, making it significantly harder for new, emerging, and disadvantaged businesses to compete.

I served in the U.S. Marine Corps infantry and took part in the liberation of Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. I participated in the ground offensive campaign with Task Force Papa Bear, Weapons Company 1/1. The lessons I learned in combat (teamwork, perseverance, and determination) now guide my mission in business. I am not looking for favors. I am asking for fair opportunity. The Rule of Two is that opportunity.

I respectfully urge the Subcommittee to protect this essential policy and continue supporting programs that give disabled veterans and small businesses a chance to serve again, this time, through government contracting.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of the small business community.

Sincerely,

**r/s John Patricio MBA PMP**  
SGT/USMC/RET

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