

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations of the Committee on Small Business

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

DATE: March 7, 2025

RE: Subcommittee Hearing Titled: “Restoring the SBA: Putting Main Street America First”

On **Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 10:00 AM ET**, the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations of the Committee on Small Business will hold a hearing titled “**Restoring the SBA: Putting Main Street America First.**” The meeting will convene in room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to examine how the Small Business Administration (SBA) deviated from its mission under the previous administration and how the SBA will return to supporting small businesses.

I. Witnesses

- **Mr. Ted Gutierrez**, State Director, Missouri SBDC
- **Mr. Alfredo Ortiz**, President and CEO, Job Creators Network
- **Mr. Richard Trent**, Executive Director, Main Street Alliance

II. Background

Throughout America’s history, small businesses have played a leading role in driving economic growth and job creation. In fact, more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, creating about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year.¹ Unfortunately, policies implemented during the previous administration raised questions about the SBA’s ability to assist small businesses effectively and efficiently.

Policies like work-from-home, which continued after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared over, resulted in the SBA’s failure to sufficiently oversee its programs and implement suggestions made by the Office of Inspector General.² Other policies imposed under the previous administration were

¹ See *National Small Business Week*, AMERICA’S SBDC (last visited Mar. 3, 2025), <https://americassbdc.org/nsbw/>.

² Zach Cohen, *Congress Losing Patience on Federal Workforce’s Return to Office*, BLOOMBERG GOV’T. (Sept. 14, 2023).

outside the scope of the SBA’s mission altogether, such as utilizing agency staff and taxpayer resources to register voters.

Under the Trump Administration, the SBA’s efforts are being redirected back to their core mission to “aid, counsel, assist and protect, insofar as is possible, the interests of small business concerns.”³ This includes addressing the real pain points of small businesses, like burdensome regulations, and rooting out duplicative programs across the agency so that resources can be streamlined and used effectively.

Lastly, the Trump Administration is tapping into the SBA Office of Advocacy’s potential to ensure that small businesses’ needs and challenges are considered in government decision-making across all federal agencies. With significant shifts in rulemaking priorities to the detriment of entrepreneurs, the SBA Office of Advocacy struggled over the last few years to exert its influence in the agency rulemaking process, which would have helped address the needs of small businesses. Even though President Trump nominated an individual as the Chief Counsel of Advocacy during his first term, he was never confirmed, leaving this position vacant since the departure of Darryl L. DePriest in January 2017.⁴ Upon entering his second term, President Trump nominated Casey Mulligan to serve as the Chief Counsel of Advocacy.⁵ Filling this role is vital in ensuring small business voices are heard and accounted for in Washington, DC.

III. Conclusion

With renewed leadership and a targeted focus to return the SBA to its core mission, the agency is now poised to support Main Street as intended. Depoliticizing the SBA, rooting out duplicative and unnecessary programs, and ensuring ample oversight through the Office of Advocacy will pave the way for opportunities to tackle the previous years of misguided policies—which will shift the focus back to the health, growth, and job creation of small businesses.

IV. Legislation Attached

- H.R. ____ Returning SBA to Main Street Act

³ 15 USC § 631a.

⁴ Letter from Roger Williams, Chairman, H. Comm. On Small Bus., to Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States (Feb. 16, 2024).

⁵ *PN13-11—Casey Mulligan—Small Business Administration*, CONGRESS.GOV (last visited Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/nomination/119th-congress/13/11>.