

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

HEARING HELD
FEBRUARY 6, 2019



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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,

Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:34 a.m., in Room 2360, Rayburn House Office Building. Hon. Nydia Velázquez [chairwoman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Velázquez, Finkenauer, Kim, Davids, Golden, Crow, Chu, Veasey, Evans, Espaillat, Schneider, Delgado, Chabot, Radewagen, Kelly, Balderson, Hern, Hagedorn, Stauber, Burchett, Spano, and Joyce.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Good morning, everyone.

I call the Small Business Committee Organizational Meeting to order.

I want to first welcome all returning and new Members. Before we introduce new Members, I want to recognize Ranking Member Steve Chabot, who has served on this Committee with me for so many years now. We both know what it is like being in the majority and the minority, and together we have proven just what bipartisanship looks like. Just as Mr. Chabot has done in his tenure as Chairman, I intend to continue this Committee's history of working together to foster a healthy business climate for America's entrepreneurs. I look forward to working with you and other Members of the Committee to accomplish this goal.

Small businesses continue to make unprecedented contributions to our economy. They create nearly two-thirds of net new jobs and account for nearly half of all private sector employment. But, they need our help as they are facing challenges accessing capital, identifying a skilled workforce, and complying with an overly complex Tax Code. As we move forward, it is our duty to make sure they are given all the resources they need to prosper.

But to do so it is important to address these issues in a constructive and inclusive manner. My belief has always been that there is not a Republican or Democratic approach to small businesses. Good ideas come from both sides of the aisle and we need to encourage that, which is why I will make it a priority to work in a bipartisan fashion.

During the last 2 years we did just that and accomplished a great deal together. Small businesses deserve our partnership. We have a diverse Committee and that is our strength because we will ensure our work benefits all entrepreneurs, no matter their location, industry, or background.

I look forward to collaborating with the Ranking Member and with all Committee Members this Congress.

Now, let me take this opportunity to introduce the Members on my side. There are a few new Democratic Members of the Committee.

Congressman Marc Veasey, now in his fourth term, previously served in the Texas House of Representatives, and has been dedicated to addressing the challenges of many middle-class Americans. We are excited to have his experience.

The rest of our new Members are from our ambitious crop of freshmen.

Abby Finkenauer served in the Iowa House of Representatives before her election to Congress. She has a passion for rural economic development and will be a true asset to our Committee.

Andy Kim brings extensive foreign affairs experience to Congress after serving at the Pentagon, the State Department, the White House National Security Council, and in Afghanistan as a civilian advisor.

Sharice Davids from Kansas brings her knowledge as a businesswoman, lawyer, and professional mixed martial artist. Do not mess around with her.

Jared Golden is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and in 2014, he was elected to the Maine House of Representatives where he served as the Democratic Assistant Majority Leader in 2016.

Jason Crow is a former Army Ranger and a lawyer who has served multiple tours overseas and earned a Bronze Star for his combat actions. As the son of small business owners, he understands the hard work our nation's job creators put into creating jobs and growing our economy. Thank you for your service.

Antonio Delgado hails from my home state of New York. He is a Rhodes Scholar with diverse professional experience that includes working in the music industry and as a lawyer where he dedicated significant pro bono work fighting for criminal justice reform.

Chrissy Houlahan, like many of our colleagues, also served our country before being elected to Congress. She served in the Air Force, but also brings her background as an engineer and entrepreneur through her work here on the Committee.

We welcome you all to Congress and are excited you will be serving on the House Small Business Committee.

I would also like to welcome back the Members who served on the Committee in the 115th Congress.

Judy Chu is in her sixth term in Congress and fifth with the Committee. She has a Ph.D. in psychology and also served in the California State Assembly.

Joining us from Pennsylvania is Dwight Evans, who previously served as the Ranking Member of our Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access. We are very lucky to have him back in his new position as the Committee's Vice Chair. His dedication to small business issues is clear as he has served for over 35 years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives before coming to Congress.

Mr. Schneider is in his third term serving on this Committee where his over 2 decades in business and management consulting

has helped him address the needs of small businesses as they hire and grow their businesses.

Last, but not least, Adriano Espaillat, also from the great state of New York, is rejoining the Committee for his second term. Originally born in the Dominican Republic, he is the first Dominican American to serve in Congress.

We are very fortunate to have you all back on this Committee.

I now yield to the Ranking Member, Mr. Chabot, for his opening statement and to introduce his new Members.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. And as we begin I want to mention, as you did, that Chairwoman Velázquez and I have served on this Committee for over 20 years together. Twenty-three to be exact, but who is counting? And we have both held the position of Chair and Ranking Member, depending on which party controlled the house. We have worked together in a very bipartisan manner at nearly every step of the way and I want to thank her for continuing this tradition, at least so far in the 116th Congress, although we are not very far in it yet but I am sure we are going to continue those bipartisan efforts.

For new Members of Congress, I am sure that a lot of you have seen Committee hearings on TV or on the Internet that have been filled with bitter partisanship and that could give a preconceived notion of how things work around here but let me assure you that while you may find that in other Committees that you sit on, you will not find it here, at least not usually. Of course, there will be philosophical differences. We have real differences on health care and taxes and a whole range of issues, but on this Committee we do truly work together across the aisle for the betterment of America's small businesses.

We do this because small businesses are the key to our economy. We must ensure that small companies are healthy so they can create jobs and continue to grow. Policies that expand capital access, create new incentives, and spur investment will continue that economic expansion.

Small businesses employ over half of America's workers and create about 70 percent of new jobs in the American economy. They represent approximately 99 percent. So 99 out of 100 businesses in America are by definition small businesses. They comprise about half of the nation's private sector payroll and produce about half of our private non-farm gross domestic product.

The past 2 years have brought great news for small firms. Optimism continues to push all-time highs. Small firms are investing more capital into their businesses. Wage growth for employees at small firms continues to grow and profits are up. But as with everything, we can always fine tune the engine to get a better performance.

I look forward to working with you Madam Chairwoman and the other Members of the Committee on both sides of the aisle over the next 2 years.

Now, I would like to introduce our new Members, the new Republican Members of the Small Business Committee.

I will begin with Representative Kevin Hern of Oklahoma, who started his first small business in 1985 specializing in computer and software applications. Then he started saving to purchase his

first McDonald's restaurant. Starting several small business ventures along the way, writing computer programs to automate tasks for other businesses, real estate, and even hog farming. We welcome him here.

Representative Jim Hagedorn of Minnesota started his career as a congressional staffer for Minnesota congressman Arlan Stangeland here in Washington, D.C. Later, he worked as director for legislative and public affairs for the Financial Management Service, the U.S. Department of Treasury, and in the Congressional Affairs Shop for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Representative Pete Stauber of Minnesota began his career as a police officer in the early 1990s. He served both as the president of the Law Enforcement Labor Services Union, Local 363, and as an area commander with the Duluth Police Department. He later became a city councilman and county commissioner, and he is a heck of a hockey player as well, both at the college level, winning national championships and the pros as well.

Representative Tim Burchett of Tennessee founded a small business early in his life. He then dedicated himself to public service, serving in the Tennessee State House, Senate, and most recently as mayor of Knox County, Tennessee. And we welcome him as well.

Representative Ross Spano of Florida spent most of his career as a shareholder of his own law practice, representing individuals and small businesses in Hillsborough County. In 2012, he successfully won a seat in Florida's House of Representatives where he served for 3 terms.

Representative John Joyce of Pennsylvania, is a physician who began his medical career working with the Navy at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He returned to his hometown to open his own practice and has been caring for Central Pennsylvanians ever since.

We welcome all our new Members, and this Committee considers many issues that are related to our nation's economy, so I know the knowledge and expertise of our new Members will be extremely helpful. We welcome all of you to the Committee.

I also want to recognize the Republican Members who are returning to the Committee.

Amata Radewagen of American Samoa, who will serve as our Vice Ranking Member for the 116th Congress. And Trent Kelly of Mississippi and Troy Balderson of Ohio. Each of them has made significant contributions to our Committee's consideration of policy. And I know that their experience will be invaluable as we contemplate the critical issues facing our nation's small businesses.

So Madam Chairwoman, I look forward to another 2 productive years working with you and working on policies that will help America's entrepreneurs succeed.

And I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. And I look forward to the discussion and debates that I know will transpire over the next 2 years.

And now we will move to the rules package. With today's rules package, I believe we are making it clear to the small business community that we are committed to working together and advocating on their behalf.

Pursuant to Clause 2(a) of House Rule 11, today's first order of business is to adopt the Committee rules for the 116th Congress. The adoption of the rules is central to the work we do and the tone we set in this body. Perhaps most importantly they must ensure that all points of view are considered and that the minority retains their full rights to be heard. In this context, the rules remain largely unchanged from the 115th Congress. The rules have been modified slightly to conform with House Rules adopted last month. That change clarifies that weekends and holidays when the House is not in session are not counted for purposes of the 3 days rule for mark-ups. Hearings are one of our best platforms and offer tremendous insight and we welcome non-Committee Members to participate. Our rules now make it clear that they are welcome to attend our hearings with appropriate notice and to question witnesses with the approval of the Chair and Ranking Member. However, they cannot be counted for purposes of a quorum or to participate in any vote.

The rules package also institutes a longstanding practice of the Committee to extend the 5 minute oral testimony of a witness as long as the Chair and Ranking Member agree.

Finally, the rules rename three of our Subcommittees which reflect the changing nature of small business challenges. The new Subcommittees are the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure, formerly Contracting and Workforce; the Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development, formerly Health and Technology; and the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship, formerly Agriculture, Energy, and Trade.

This Committee needs to run in a cooperative manner. I believe the best way to do that is to make sure both sides have an equal voice and are treated in a way that is fair. Through adoption of these rules we will continue this practice.

I would like to thank the staff on both sides for working closely on the rules package. Thank you.

At this point I would like to yield to Ranking Member Chabot for any comments he may have on the rules.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I want to thank you and your staff for working so collaboratively on the Committee rules package. This package provides continued protection for the rights of the minority, now that we are in the minority, and we had those same protections for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle when they were in the minority. And the opportunity for minorities' input into the operation of the Committee.

I want to take a moment to highlight just several rules, and you have already mentioned these. But the first, the minority will continue to have control of fully a third of the Committee's budget. This rule goes a long way toward maintaining the collegial tone of the Committee.

Second, witnesses, as you mentioned, will limit their oral presentation to 5 minutes of written testimony. They can summarize it, of course, which has been the Committee's rule in the past. In the new rules the Chairwoman, in consultation with the Ranking Member, may now extend that time if we think that that would be helpful for the Committee.

Finally, Members who are not Members of the Committee on Small Business occasionally join the Committee to participate in a hearing. These Members are not permitted to vote for the purpose of establishing a quorum or on any matter, but in the proposed rules may question witnesses if permitted by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Member. We support those efforts and those changes.

Again, I appreciate the Chairwoman and her staff for working closely with the minority in bringing this rules package forward. And I urge my colleagues to support it.

And I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chabot.

Are there any Members that wish to be recognized on the rules?

The Committee now moves to consideration of the rules package. The clerk will read the title of the document.

The CLERK. Rules and Procedures Adopted by the Committee.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the rules package be considered as read and open for amendment in its entirety.

Does any Member seek recognition for the purpose of offering an amendment?

Seeing none, the question is on adopting the rules.

All those in favor say aye.

All those opposed say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the proposed rules are adopted and staff is authorized to make technical and grammatical changes.

Pursuant to House Rules, the rules adopted by the Committee on Small Business for the 116th Congress will be published in the congressional record and made available to the public on the Committee's website.

Now, we will approve our Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members. The Full Committee Vice Chair will be Representative Dwight Evans, who was elected by a vote of the Democratic Caucus.

Representative Jared Golden will be the Chair of the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure.

Representative Andy Kim will be Chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access.

Representative Jason Crow will be the Chair of the Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development.

Representative Judy Chu will be Chair of the Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations.

And Representative Abby Finkenauer will be the Chair on the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship.

I now yield to the Ranking Member, Mr. Chabot, for any remarks that he may have to introduce the Subcommittee Ranking Members.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

I will now introduce the Subcommittee Ranking Members for the republican side of the Committee.

Representative John Joyce—I would not mind if the Members could kind of just raise their hand so everybody knows who they are.

Representative John Joyce from Pennsylvania will be the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship.

Representative Troy Balderson of Ohio will be the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development.

Representative Kevin Hern from Oklahoma will be the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access.

Representative Ross Spano from Florida will be the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations.

And Representative Pete Stauber from Minnesota will be the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure.

We have an excellent crop of newcomers on the Committee on our side, and I know that the folks on the other side of the aisle are pretty good, too. And these folks will be going along with the really fantastic Members that are already on the Committee. So we appreciate them being here.

And I look forward to working with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the 116th Congress, and as we have already indicated, we actually accomplish a lot in a bipartisan manner on this Committee and we appreciate that.

And I now yield back.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you.

I move that the list of Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members and Vice Chair as set forth in the roster be approved.

All those in favor say aye.

Those opposed say no.

In the opinion of the Chair the ayes have it and the Chairs and Ranking Members are appointed.

This concludes the order of business for today's meeting.

Does any Member seek recognition for debate before we conclude?

If not, without—yes?

Mr. BURCHETT. I am Tim Burchett. I am a new Member. I am not sure if I am breaking protocol here but I saw on the news where you stepped up and did the right thing. I saw in your district where there was, I believe a jail without heat. And as a county mayor, I know that a lot of people in our jails are not guilty and a lot of people in Knox County maybe do not speak the language or are just caught in a bad situation financially, and I wanted to thank you for looking at the least amongst us. I cannot imagine anything more horrible than being in a jail or knowing that your loved one is in there and did not have heat or anything there in horrible weather conditions. So I wanted to thank you.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you so much.

Mr. BURCHETT. And if that costs me votes in Knox County, so be it. But thank you.

Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ. Thank you so much.

Mr. CHABOT. My guess is it will not.

Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. I appreciate it. Really appreciate it.

Any other Member who wishes to make any comment or ask any questions?

If not, without objection, this meeting of the Committee on Small Business stands adjourned and the Committee will stand in recess for a few moments to prepare for the Committee hearing.

Thank you. Thank you all.

[Whereupon, at 10:56 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Rules and Procedures

Adopted by the

Committee on Small Business

United States House of Representatives

116th Congress, 2019-2020

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (A) Rules of the Committee. The Rules of the House of Representatives, in total (but especially with respect to the operations of committees Rule X, cl. 1(q), cl. 2, cl. 3(l), and Rule XI), are the rules of the Committee on Small Business ("Committee") to the extent applicable and are incorporated by reference.
- (B) Appointments by the Chair. Pursuant to the Rules of the House, the Chair shall designate a Member of the Committee Majority to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee. The Vice Chair shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chair. The Chair also reserves the right to designate a Member of the Committee Majority to serve as the Chair at a hearing or meeting.

2. REFERRAL OF BILLS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair will retain consideration of all legislation referred to the Committee by the Speaker. No action will be required of a Subcommittee before legislation is considered for report by the Committee. Subcommittee chairs, pursuant to the rules set out herein, may hold hearings on any bill referred to the Committee.

3. SUBCOMMITTEES

- (A) Generally. Each Subcommittee of the Committee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee, and to the Rules of the House and the rules adopted herein, to the extent applicable. The Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for the purpose of any meeting conducted by a Subcommittee.

- (B) The Committee shall be organized into the following five subcommittees:

- (1) Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Democratic Members and four (4) Republican Members) will address policies that enhance rural economic

growth, increasing America's energy independence and ensuring that America's small businesses can compete effectively in a global marketplace.

- Oversight of agricultural policies.
- Oversight of environmental issues and regulations (including agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers).
- Oversight of energy issues, including expansion of domestic resources, whether they are renewable or non-renewable.
- Oversight of international trade policy with particular emphasis on agencies that provide direct assistance to small businesses, such as: the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of International Trade, the Department of Commerce's United States Export Assistance Centers, the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Export-Import Bank.
- Oversight of infringement of intellectual property rights by foreign competition.
- Oversight of SBA entrepreneurial development programs, including Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veteran Business Outreach Centers, and SCORE.

(2) Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Democratic Members and four (4) Republican Members) will address how innovation promotes economic growth and job creation by small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine small business job growth through the creation and adoption of advanced technologies. The Subcommittee will review the broad scope of workforce issues that affect the ability of small businesses to obtain and maintain qualified employees.

- Oversight of all federal policies that affect the workforce including, but not limited to, the roles of the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board.
- Oversight of workforce issues, including but not limited to health care, retirement, and labor challenges facing small businesses.
- Oversight of general technology issues, including intellectual property policy in the United States.
- Oversight of United States telecommunications policies including, but not limited to, the National Broadband Plan and allocation of electromagnetic spectrum.
- Oversight of the Small Business Innovation Research Program.
- Oversight of the Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

(3) Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Democratic Members and four (4) Republican Members) will evaluate the operation of the financial markets in the United States and their ability to provide needed capital to small businesses. In addition, the Subcommittee will review federal programs, especially those overseen by the SBA, aimed at assisting entrepreneurs in obtaining needed capital. Since the tax policy plays an integral role in access to capital, this Committee also will examine the impact of federal tax policies on small businesses.

- Oversight of capital access and financial markets.
- Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.
- SBA financial assistance programs, including guaranteed loans, microloans, certified development company loans, and small business investment companies.
- Oversight of the Department of Agriculture business and industry guaranteed loan program.
- Oversight of general tax policy affecting small businesses.
- The management of the SBA disaster loan program.

(4) Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Democratic Members and four (4) Republican Members) will probe the efficient operation of government programs that affect small businesses, including the SBA, and develop proposals to make them operate in a more cost-effective manner. This Subcommittee also will review the regulatory burdens imposed on small businesses and how those burdens may be alleviated.

- Oversight of general issues affecting small businesses and federal agencies.
- Oversight of the management of the SBA.
- Oversight of the SBA Inspector General.
- Implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.
- Oversight of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget.
- Use of the Congressional Review Act.
- Transparency of the federal rulemaking process as required by the Administrative Procedure and Data Quality Acts.
- Implementation of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

(5) Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure

This Subcommittee (which will consist of six (6) Democratic Members and four (4) Republican Members) will assess the federal procurement system, including those programs designed specifically to enhance participation by small

businesses in providing goods and services to the federal government. The Subcommittee will review the broad scope of opportunities available to small businesses for rebuilding and modernizing the nations' infrastructure.

- Oversight of government-wide procurement practices and programs affecting small businesses.
- Oversight of federal procurement policies that inhibit or expand participation by small businesses in the federal contracting marketplace.
- All contracting programs established by the Small Business Act, including HUBZone, 8(a), Women-, and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Programs.
- Technical assistance provided to federal contractors and prospective contractors through SBA personnel, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- The SBA Surety Bond guarantee program.
- General oversight of programs available to small businesses in modernizing and strengthening the nation's infrastructure.

(C) Powers and Duties of Subcommittees. Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on any matters referred to it. Prior to the scheduling of any meeting or hearing of a Subcommittee, the Chair of the Subcommittee shall obtain the approval of the Chair of the Committee.

(D) Hearing Time and Date. No hearing or meeting of a Subcommittee shall take place at the same time as the meeting or hearing of the full Committee or another Subcommittee, *provided however*, that the Subcommittee Chairs may hold field hearings that conflict with those held by other Subcommittees of the Committee.

4. COMMITTEE STAFF

(A) Majority Staff. The employees of the Committee, except those assigned to the Minority as provided below, shall be appointed and assigned, and may be removed by the Chair of the Committee. The Chair shall fix their remuneration and they shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

(B) Minority Staff. The employees of the Committee assigned to the Minority shall be appointed and assigned, and their remuneration determined, as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall decide.

(C) Subcommittee Staff. There shall be no separate staff assigned to Subcommittees. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall endeavor to ensure that sufficient Committee staff is made available in order that each Subcommittee may carry out the responsibilities set forth in Rule 3, *supra*.

5. MEETINGS

- (A) Regular Meetings. The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session. The Chair may dispense with the meeting of the Committee, if in the sole discretion of the Chair, there is no need for such meeting.
- (B) Additional Meetings. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair or at the request of the majority Members of the Committee pursuant to Rule XI, cl. 2(c) of the rules of the House. At least 3 days' notice, pursuant to Rule XI, cl. 2(g)(3)(A), of such an additional meeting shall be given unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to call the meeting on less notice or upon a vote by a majority of the Committee (a quorum being present). Announcements of the meeting shall be published promptly in the Daily Digest and made publicly available in electronic form.
- (C) Business to be Considered. The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chair subject to limitations set forth in House Rule XI, cl. 2(c).
- (D) Meeting Materials. The Chair shall provide to each Member of the Committee, to the extent practicable, at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting, a copy of the bill, resolution, report or other item to be considered at the meeting, but no later than 24 hours before the meeting. Such material also shall be made available to the public at least 24 hours in advance in electronic form.
- (E) Special and Emergency Meetings. The rules for notice and meetings as set forth in Rule 5 of these Rules shall not apply to special and emergency meetings. Clause 2(c)(2) of Rule XI and clause 2(g)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, as applicable, shall apply to such meetings.

6. NOTICE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS

- (A) Announcement of Hearings. Public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee shall be made no later than seven (7) calendar days before the commencement of the hearing. To the extent possible, the seven days shall be counted from 168 hours before the time of the Committee's hearing.
- (B) Exception. The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or upon a vote by the majority of the Committee (a quorum being present), may authorize a hearing to commence on less than 7 days' notice.
- (C) Witness Lists. Unless the Chair determines it is impracticable to do so, the Committee shall make a tentative witness list available at the time it makes the public announcement of the hearing. If a tentative witness list is not made available at the time of the

announcement of the hearing, such witness list shall be made available as soon as practicable after such announcement is made. A final witness list shall be issued by the Committee no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the hearing.

- (D) **Hearing Material.** The Chair shall provide to all Members of the Committee, as soon as practicable after the announcement of the hearing, a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing and any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter of the hearing. Such material shall be made available to all Members of the Committee no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing, unless the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determines that certain reports from departments or agencies should not be made available prior to the commencement of the hearing. Material provided by the Chair to all Members, whether provided prior to or at the hearing, shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 48 hours after the commencement of the hearing, unless such material contains sensitive or classified information, in which case such material shall be handled pursuant to Rule 16 of the Committee's Rules.

7. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (A) **Meetings.** Each meeting of the Committee or its Subcommittees for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, shall be open to the public, including to radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided by House Rule XI, cl. 4. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the meeting determine by a recorded vote in open session that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; *provided however*, that no person other than Members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such executive branch representatives they may authorize, shall be present in any meeting which has been closed to the public.
- (B) **Hearings.** Each hearing conducted by the Committee or its Subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage. If the majority of Members of the Committee or Subcommittee present at the hearing determine by a recorded vote in open session that all or part of the remainder of the hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because the disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; *provided however*, that the Committee or Subcommittee may by the same procedure also vote to close one subsequent day of hearings. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present (if the requisite number of Members are present under Committee rules for the purpose of taking testimony) may vote: (i) to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether the testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would

compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or violate Rule XI, cl. 2(k)(5) of the House or (ii) to close the hearing, as provided clause 2(k)(5) of Rule XI of the House.

- (C) Participation in Subcommittee Hearings. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are *ex officio* Members of all Subcommittees for any hearing conducted by a Subcommittee. Members of the Committee who wish to participate in a hearing of the Subcommittee to which they are not Members shall make such request to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee at the commencement of the hearing. The Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee, shall grant such request.
- (D) Non-Participatory Attendance by Other Members of the House. No Member of the House may be excluded from non-participatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or any Subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or Subcommittees, for purposes of a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearing to Members by the same procedures designated to close hearings to the public.
- (E) Procedure to Participate. Members of Congress who are not Members of the Committee but would like to participate in a hearing shall notify the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member and submit a formal request no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting or hearing. Such Member may not vote on any matter; be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum; participate in questioning a witness under the 5-Minute rule, unless permitted to do so by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member; raise points of order; or offer amendments or motions.
- (F) Audio and Video Coverage. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner easily accessible to the public. Operation and use of any Committee internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with clauses 4 (b) and (f) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

8. WITNESSES

- (A) Number of Witnesses. For any hearing conducted by the Committee or Subcommittee there shall be no more than four non-governmental witnesses of which the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate) is entitled to select one witness for the hearing.
- (B) Witnesses Selected by the Minority. Witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be invited to testify by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee (as appropriate). Rule 6(A) shall apply with equal force to witnesses selected by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee.

(C) Small Business Week Exception. The limitations set forth in the preceding paragraph shall not apply if the Committee holds a hearing to honor the work of the small business community in conjunction with the annual celebration of Small Business Week. Witness limitations for such a hearing shall be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(D) Statement of Witnesses.

- (1) Insofar as is practicable, each witness who is to appear before the Committee or Subcommittee shall file an electronic copy of the written testimony with the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing. In addition, the witness shall provide 25 copies of the written testimony by the commencement of the hearing. The Chair may waive the requirement by the witness providing 25 copies in which case the Committee or Subcommittee shall provide the 25 copies.
- (2) Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a five-minute summary of the written testimony, unless the Chair in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member extends this time period.
- (3) Insofar as is practicable, each non-governmental witness shall provide to the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member, no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing, a curriculum vitae or other statement describing their education, employment, professional affiliation or other background information pertinent to their testimony.

(E) Witness Disclosure. As required by Rule XI, cl. 2(g) of the Rules of the House, each non-governmental witness before the commencement of the hearing shall file with the Chair a disclosure form detailing any contracts or grants that the witness has with the federal government, as well as the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Such information shall be posted on the Committee website within 24 hours after the witness appeared at the hearing.

(F) Failure to Comply. The failure to provide the materials set forth by the deadlines set forth in these rules may be grounds for excluding both the oral and written testimony of the witness unless waived by the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee.

(G) Public Access to Witness Materials. The Committee will provide public access to printed materials, including the testimony of witnesses in electronic form on the Committee's website no later than 24 hours after the hearing is adjourned. Supplemental material provided after the hearing adjourns shall be placed on the Committee website no later than 24 hours after receipt of such material.

- (H) Questioning of Witnesses. Except when the Committee adopts a motion pursuant to subdivisions (B) and (C) of clause 2(i)(2) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, Committee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose. Members shall have the opportunity, as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2 (j) of the Rules of the House, to question each witness on the panel for a period not to exceed five minutes. For any hearing, the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee may offer a motion to extend the questioning of a witness or witnesses by the Member identified in the motion for more than five minutes as set forth in Rule XI, cl. 2(j)(B). No Member may be recognized for a second period of interrogation, subject to the 5-minute rule, until each Member present, who wishes to be recognized, has been recognized at least once.
- (I) Order of Questioning. The Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee shall commence questioning followed by the Ranking Minority Member. Thereafter, questioning shall alternate between the majority and minority Members. Before the gavel has been struck, or in the case of Members arriving simultaneously, the order of questioning shall be based on seniority among Members of his or her own party. After the gavel has been struck, Members first to arrive shall have priority over Members of his or her own party. Members of Congress who are not Members of the Committee, if allowed by the Chair, may be recognized for questioning of witnesses but only after all Committee Members have first been recognized.
- (J) Consideration of Ratio. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chair may take into consideration the ratio of majority and minority Members present in such a manner as to not disadvantage the Members of either party.

9. QUORUM

- (A) Determining a Quorum. A quorum, for purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation, shall be a majority of the Committee Members.
- (B) Quorum for a Hearing. For purposes of taking testimony or receiving evidence, a quorum shall be one Member from the Majority and one Member from the Minority. The Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee shall exercise reasonable comity by waiting for the Ranking Minority Member even if a quorum is present before striking the gavel to commence the hearing. For hearings held by the Committee or a Subcommittee in a location other than the Committee's hearing room in Washington, DC, a quorum shall be deemed to be present if the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee is present.

10. RECORD VOTES

- (A) When Provided. A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of any Member of the Committee. A record of the vote of each Member of the Committee on a matter before the Committee shall be

available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote, and, with respect to any roll call vote on any motion to amend or report, shall be included in the report of the Committee showing the total number of votes cast for and against and the names of those Members voting for and against.

- (B) Proxy Voting. No vote by any member of the Committee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.
- (C) Public Access to Record Votes. The Chair of the Committee shall, not later than 24 hours after consideration of a bill, resolution, report or other item, cause the text of the reported item and any amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form.

11. SUBPOENAS

- (A) Authorization and Issuance. A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities to require the attendance and testimony of such witness and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers and documents, as deemed necessary. Such subpoena shall be authorized by a majority of the full Committee. The requirement that the authorization of a subpoena require a majority vote may be waived by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.
- (B) Issuance During Congressional Recess. The Chair may issue a subpoena, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, when the House is out for session for more than three legislative days.

12. AMENDMENTS DURING MARKUP

- (A) Availability of Amendments. Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee must be made available in written form by any Member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chair shall allow an appropriate period for the provision thereof and may adjourn the markup to provide sufficient time for the provision of such written amendment. Such period or adjournment shall not prejudice the offering of such amendment.
- (B) Drafting and Filing of Amendments. For amendments to be accepted during markup, there is no requirement that the amendments be filed prior to commencement of the markup or prepared with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel. Even though it is not necessary, Members seeking to amend legislation during markup should draft amendments with the assistance of the Office of Legislative Counsel and consult with the Chair or Ranking Minority Member's staff (as appropriate) in the preparation of such amendments.

13. POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

- (D) When Postponement is Permissible. The Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume postponed proceedings, but no later than 24 hours after such postponement, unless the House is not in session or there are conflicts with Member schedules that make it unlikely a quorum will be present to conduct business on the postponed proceeding. In such cases, the Chair will consult with Members to set a time as early as possible to resume proceedings but in no event later than the next meeting date as set forth in Rule 5 of these Rules.
- (A) Resumption of Proceedings. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

14. COMMITTEE RECORDS

- (A) The Committee shall keep a complete record of all actions, which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded. The result of any vote by the Committee, or if applicable by a Subcommittee, including a voice vote shall be posted on the Committee's website within 24 hours after the vote has been taken. Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of the Member voting for and against such amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the names of Members present but not voting. For any amendment, motion, order, or other proposition decided by voice vote, the record shall include a description and whether the voice vote was in favor or against.
- (B) Transcripts. The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee and Subcommittee activity which, in the case of a meeting or hearing transcript, shall include a substantially verbatim account of the remarks actually made during the proceedings subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks.
- (C) Availability of Records. The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to Rule VII, cl. 3(b)(3) or cl. 4 (b), to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination of the written request of any Member of the Committee.
- (D) Publishing and Posting of Records. The Committee Rules shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 60 days after the Chair of the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

15. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the Minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

16. ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

- (A) Access to classified or sensitive information supplied to the Committee or Subcommittees and attendance at closed sessions of the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be limited to Members and necessary Committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance when the Chair determines that such access or attendance is essential to the functioning of the Committee or one of its Subcommittees.
- (B) Procedures Governing Availability. The procedures to be followed in granting access to those hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the Committee which involve classified information or information deemed to be sensitive shall be as follows:
 - (1) Only Members of the House of Representatives and specifically designated Committee staff of the Committee on Small Business may have access to such information.
 - (2) Members who desire to read materials that are in possession of the Committee shall notify the Clerk of the Committee in writing.
 - (3) The Clerk of the Committee will maintain an accurate access log, which identifies the circumstances surrounding access to the information, without revealing the material examined.
 - (4) If the material desired to be reviewed is material which the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special handling, before receiving access to such information, individuals will be required to sign an access information sheet acknowledging such access and that the individual has read and understands the procedures under which access is being granted.
 - (5) Material provided for review under this rule shall not be removed from a specified room within the Committee offices.

- (6) Individuals reviewing materials under this rule shall make certain that the materials are returned to the proper custodian.
- (7) No reproductions or recordings may be made of any portion of such materials.
- (8) The contents of such information shall not be divulged to any person in any way, form, shape, or manner and shall not be discussed with any person who has not received the information in the manner authorized by the rules of the Committee.
- (9) When not being examined in the manner described herein, such information will be kept in secure safes or locked file cabinets within the Committee offices.
- (10) These procedures only address access to information the Committee or Subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special treatment.
- (11) If a Member of the House of Representatives believes that certain sensitive information should not be restricted as to dissemination or use, the Member may petition the Committee or Subcommittee to so rule. With respect to information and materials provided to the Committee by the Executive Branch or an independent agency as that term is defined in 44 U.S.C. § 3502, the classification of information and materials as determined by the Executive Branch or independent agency shall prevail unless affirmatively changed by the Committee or Subcommittee involved, after consultation with the Executive Branch or independent agency.
- (12) Other materials in the possession of the Committee are to be handled in the accordance with normal practices and traditions of the Committee.

17. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chair of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

18. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a majority vote of the Members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change or changes has been provided to each Member of the Committee at least 72 hours prior to the time of the meeting of the Committee to consider such change or changes.

19. BUDGET AND TRAVEL

- (A) Allocation of Budget. From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress, the

Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall designate one-third of the budget under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and Members, and minority office expenses.

- (B) Authorization of Travel. The Chair may authorize travel in connection with activities or subject matters under the legislative or oversight jurisdiction of the Committee as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House. The Ranking Minority Member may authorize travel for any Minority Member or staff of the minority in connection with activities or subject matters under the Committee's jurisdiction as set forth in Rule X of the Rules of the House. Before such travel, there shall be submitted to the Chair of the Committee in writing the following at least seven (7) calendar days prior specifying: a) the purpose of the travel; b) the dates during which the travel is to occur; c) the names of the states or countries to be visited and the length of time spent in each; and d) the names of Members and staff of the Committee participating in such travel.

**OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR THE
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**

Ms. Velázquez, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

REPORT

Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House requires each standing Committee to adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Oversight and Reform and House Administration not later than March 1 of the first session of the Congress. Under Rule X, the Committee has oversight authority to investigate and examine any matter affecting small business. This Report reflects that broad oversight jurisdiction.

Oversight of Federal Capital Access Programs

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into Small Business Administration (SBA) and other federal agencies that provide capital to America's entrepreneurs that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Effectiveness of the capital access programs to generate jobs in the fastest growing small businesses.
- Whether lenders are meeting their goals to lend to small businesses and create jobs.
- Adequacy of SBA oversight of its lending partners to ensure that federal taxpayers are properly protected.
- Capabilities of the SBA information technology to manage the loan portfolio.
- Whether SBA rules, regulations, and guidance result in transparent and reasoned decision making with respect to capital access programs.
- Assessment of credit-scoring algorithms as a replacement for individual credit assessment by SBA and its lending partners.
- The exercise of discretion by SBA to create pilot programs and the risk they pose to the taxpayer and whether such authority should be curtailed or eliminated.
- Whether SBA disaster loan program and its oversight ensures that small businesses are able to revive and rebuild communities.
- Review the recent change by SBA for fee waivers and the impact moving from a dollar limitation to a geographic determination will have on small businesses.
- Efficacy and duplication of federal capital access programs offered by the Department of Agriculture to small businesses in rural areas.
- Utilization by small businesses of export capital programs at the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
- Study the need to enhance the 7(a) and Certified Development Company programs so that they are more effective in reaching borrowers unable to secure conventional loans.

- Analyze the Microloan program with the intent of making it more affordable for borrowers and reducing barriers to its growth.
- Examine methods to enhance equity financing to meet the needs of small business borrowers wherein debt financing is not appropriate and how SBA programs may be used to increase equity financing.
- Continued examination of the Small Business Lending Fund and State Small Business Credit Initiative established by Pub. L. No. 111-240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, in creating jobs and providing capital to small businesses.
- Implementation of crowdfunding and other provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, Pub. L. No. 112-106.
- Continued oversight and analysis of the role that the SBA secondary market plays in small business finance and the effectiveness of changes made by SBA to the pooling program established in the Federal Register Notice of October 16, 2017.
- Review and oversight into the Master Reserve Fund at SBA.
- Implementation of program clarifications made to encourage more cooperative and employee stock ownership plan lending through SBA programs established by the Main Street Employee Ownership Act of 2018, passed into law by the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub.L. No. 115-232.
- Implementation of changes made to increase oversight of the 7(a) loan program established by Pub. L. No. 115-189, the Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2018.
- Examination of the Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program for disaster recovery lending for small businesses and its performance after recent disasters, such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria and numerous wildfires.
- Investigate franchising contracts to learn how SBA loans are being utilized, default rates, and whether small business owners are being harmed in case improvements in the SBA franchise directory can be made.
- The effectiveness of SBA in minimizing risk to the taxpayer in the SBA capital access programs.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus on particularly risky aspects of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, commercial real estate refinancing, premier certified lenders, participating security small business investment companies, small business lending companies, express lenders, and loan programs utilizing simplified lending applications.

Oversight of SBA and Other Federal Entrepreneurial Development Programs

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the SBA programs that provide training and advice to small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examining effectiveness of SBA entrepreneurial development programs in creating jobs at startups and traditional firms.
- Suggesting methods for enhancing coordination among federal agencies in aiding entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to, businesses located in underserved areas, such as rural and low-income communities and those seeking to provide goods and services in the federal procurement marketplace.

- Enhancing the efficacy and utilization of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at the Department of Commerce, including developments in renewable energy.

Oversight of Federal Government Contracting Matters

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal procurement system that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Whether fraud or other problems exist in the federal government contracting programs overseen by the SBA including the 8(a), HUBZone, service-disabled veteran, women-owned contracting, and Small Business Innovation Research programs.
- Effectiveness of SBA contracting programs to increase participation by small businesses in federal procurement.
- Effectiveness of federal agency protections against contract bundling and consolidation.
- The accuracy and utility of SBA size standards and federal procurement databases.
- Operation and effectiveness of federal agency assistance provided to small businesses interested in federal procurement, including that provided by the SBA, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- Development of federal acquisition policies and whether small businesses have sufficiently effective voice in development of such policies.
- Cost-effectiveness of outsourcing government work to private enterprise rather than expanding the government to do provide the good or service internally (i.e., government insourcing).
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made in small business federal procurement programs arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Acts for FYs 2012-2019.
- Examination of the Small Business Innovation Research Program as modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-81, including, but not limited to, increased efforts at commercializing federally-funded technology.
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made to the Small Business Innovation Research Program arising from the enactment of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub.L. No. 115-232.
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made to the HUBZone program arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub.L. No. 115-91.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus its efforts on uncovering abuse and misuse of the small business designation to obtain federal government contracts.

Oversight of SBA Management

The Committee will conduct the hearings and investigations into the management of the SBA that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The appropriate mission of the SBA.
- Whether agency employees in the field are empowered to assist small businesses.
- Duplication of offices and missions at SBA headquarters.
- Effectiveness of personnel management to ensure that employees are rewarded for assisting small businesses.
- Capabilities of SBA employees to provide proper assistance to small business owners.
- Review the agency's cooperative agreements, partnerships and co-sponsorships.
- Continue to assess the adequacy of the agency's budgetary requests, financial management, and reporting goals.
- Agency personnel capabilities to properly manage loan defaults to maximize recovery of collateral.
- Whether SBA improperly utilizes statutory authority to create untested initiatives and the procedures by which the agency develops such programs.

In carrying out this oversight, the Committee will focus particularly on streamlining and reorganizing of the agency's operations to provide maximum assistance to small business owners. Offices that primarily provide assistance or advice to headquarters staff that do not promote the interests of small businesses or protect the federal government as a guarantor of loans will be recommended for cuts or elimination.

Oversight of Federal Regulatory and Paperwork Burdens

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into burdensome federal rules, reporting and recordkeeping requirements affecting small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Identify specific rules and regulations already issued or at the proposed rule stage to assess the impact on small businesses.
- Examine agency compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act and Paperwork Reduction Act.
- Oversee, to the extent relevant, the work of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration to ensure that they are fulfilling their mission to advocate vigorously on behalf of America's small business owners in regulatory matters at federal agencies.
- Identify regulations that impose unnecessary barriers to competitive market entry by small businesses and place small businesses at a competitive disadvantage with respect to larger competitors.
- Identify regulations that fail to minimize recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including the elimination of duplicative requirements as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act.
- Assess whether small businesses are provided sufficient compliance assistance, including small entity compliance guides issued by agencies as mandated by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

- Evaluate the need to amend and further strengthen the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act to improve agency compliance with the laws and ensure that small businesses are not unnecessarily burdened by regulations.

Oversight of Federal Tax Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal tax code, its impact on small business, and Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) collection of taxes that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Identification of tax code provisions and proposed rules that hinder the ability of small businesses to create jobs and recommendations for modifying those provisions to boost small business job growth.
- Examination of the structure of the tax code in order to simplify compliance for small businesses.
- Assessment of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements associated with tax compliance and suggestions for reducing such burdens on small businesses.
- Impact of the tax reform law, Pub. L. No. 115-97, on small business tax liabilities and compliance and its harm to economic growth and job creation.
- Efficiencies at the IRS that improve the interaction between the government and small business owners.
- Inefficiencies at the IRS that force small businesses to divert capital from job growth to tax compliance.
- Investigate incentives that may be used to support the growth of the micro-entrepreneur.
- Analyze tax code restructuring to enhance the ability of small businesses to offer retirement benefits through lowering their costs.

Oversight of Health Care Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into federal health care policy (such as Medicare and Medicaid), as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The availability of health insurance in the federal marketplaces established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made to health care policy through various laws enacted throughout the 115th Congress, including but not limited to the tax reform law, Pub.L. No. 115-97.
- The impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid on the ability of physicians, pharmacists, and allied health care providers to offer the best care possible to patients.
- Examination of increases in efficiencies that will improve the provision of health care while reducing costs to small businesses that offer their workers' health insurance.

Oversight of Energy Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into energy policy to reduce the cost of energy and increase renewable energy that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Innovations developed by small businesses that create greater reliance on renewable energy.
- Federal regulatory policies that increase dependence on renewable energy and decrease energy costs.
- Policies needed to incentivize production of renewable energy in the United States.
- Examination of commercialization of research in renewable energy.
- Federal regulations or policies that affect energy costs for small businesses.
- Investigate methods to increase energy efficiency and improve resource conservation practices for small businesses.
- Federal initiatives to streamline business operations and reduce energy costs for small firms.

The primary thrust of the Committee's efforts will focus on efforts to use the innovation of America's entrepreneurs to fuel the drive for greater energy independence, including the development of renewable energy products.

Oversight of Trade and Intellectual Property Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into international trade and intellectual property policies of America and its trading partners that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Impact of free trade agreements to increase exports by American small businesses.
- Oversight of SBA's Office of International Trade and the agency's efforts to promote small business exports.
- Examination of the impact of illicit actions by foreign entities on small businesses and whether the federal government is doing enough to protect their interests.
- Whether the federal government is doing enough to protect the intellectual property rights of small businesses by foreign competitors.
- The impact of federal intellectual property policies, particularly patents and copyrights, to protect the innovations of American entrepreneurs.
- Efforts to increase exports by small businesses.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative and Department of Commerce sufficiently protect the interests of small businesses in the negotiation of free trade agreements.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative takes positions at the World Trade Organization that sufficiently promote the interests of American small businesses.
- Measure the performance of federal trade programs, which seek to reduce small firms' costs of expanding into international markets, including those administered by the SBA, Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, the Export-Import Bank, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

- Evaluate the implementation of the National Export Promotion Strategy, particularly its focus on small businesses.
- Examine efforts methods to increase the representation of small business interests in the negotiation of new trade agreements and enforcement of existing agreements and treaties.
- Evaluate the availability and quality of data measuring the contributions to the nation's trade performance by small businesses, including information gathered by the Department of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative.
- Assess current trade duties and tariffs, both domestic and foreign, to evaluate their impact on American small businesses, economic growth, and job creation.
- Conduct analysis on the importance of intellectual property rights to underserved entrepreneurs and how best to increase their representation of such rights.

Oversight of Agriculture Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into agriculture policies that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examine the impact of federal policies on family farms, ranchers, and rural small businesses, including changes made by the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Evaluate the impact of access to capital issues facing rural areas, farmers and agribusinesses.
- Analyze the extent to which SBA programs and United States Department of Agriculture programs overlap and how they can better coordinate to provide better services and streamlines assistance to the agriculture community.
- Oversee federal activities to spur economic development in rural communities.
- Examine ways in which the federal government can enhance the use of next-generation technologies in small agriculture businesses.

Oversight of Technology and Innovation Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into technology and telecommunications policies that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examine the impact of federal policies on broadband deployment, particularly in underserved areas.
- Investigate the economic benefits of increasing the speed of broadband and proposals for funding the Universal Service Fund.
- Examine the cost and benefits of proposed reforms to the United States patent system and their impact on small innovators.
- Evaluate the need to increase IP education and services to underserved innovators.
- Monitor efforts to assist small businesses in cybersecurity hygiene and evaluate the role the SBA has in the process to collect and disseminate information and educate small businesses.

- Assess the current government-wide initiative to ensure small technology firms have adequate contracting opportunities while also protecting government systems through rigorous cybersecurity requirements.
- Examine ways in which the federal government can enhance the use of next-generation technologies in small agriculture businesses.

Oversight of Veterans' Entrepreneurship Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into veterans' policies that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examine how current entrepreneurial and capital assistance programs are accommodating the growing veteran population.
- Review federal actions to assist veteran entrepreneurs and ensure they are consistent with federal small business policy.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of federal programs that seek to improve veterans' access to markets and training by implementing and monitoring enhanced programmatic data collection.
- Assess whether the federal government is sufficiently coordinating activities and allocating resources appropriately with regard to veteran entrepreneurship activities and initiatives.
- Monitor the transition of federal entrepreneurial programs from the Department of Veterans' Affairs to the SBA.

Oversight of Labor and Workforce Policy

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into labor and workforce policies that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Review federal actions to assist employers in workforce training and analyze ways to meet the growing need for more skilled workers.
- Study the effectiveness of efforts to encourage more underserved workers to enter fields where skilled labor is needed.
- Evaluate the role immigration policy plays in assisting small businesses meet their workforce needs and whether the existing visa system should be reformed.
- Investigate policies to encourage more participation in labor market through initiatives that can be offered by small businesses, such as increased minimum wages, paid sick leave, paid parental leave, and flexible work arrangements.
- Study the role student loan debt plays in entrepreneurship and methods to address the crisis.

