

OVERSIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY FOR SMALL BUSINESS
CERTIFICATIONS ACT OF 2026

JUNE 3, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, from the Committee on Small Business,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 8879]

The Committee on Small Business, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 8879) to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on small business concern participation in a covered contracting programs, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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I. PURPOSE AND BILL SUMMARY

On May 19, 2026, Rep. John Olszewski (D-MD) and Rep. Tony Wied (R-WI), introduced H.R. 8879, the *Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act of 2026*. H.R. 8879 requires the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide a report to Congress regarding certification activities and contract awards within the SBA’s small business programs, including certain certification activities for Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB), HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zones), and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) programs.

II. NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The *Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act of 2026* requires the SBA to report on certification activities and contract awards related to its small business programs. Certain certification activities are required for the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB), HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zones), and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) programs. The report would include data on the number of certifications granted or denied, application processing times, and the use of the SBA’s certification platform.

This bill requires reports to Congress to ensure accountability within these programs. As bad actors look to take advantage of the SBA’s small business programs, H.R. 8879 is intended to help root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

III. HEARINGS

On February 5, 2025, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing examining matters related to H.R. 8879 entitled “Hope on the Horizon: Prioritizing Small Business Growth in the 119th Congress.”

IV. COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee on Small Business met in open session, with a quorum being present, on May 20, 2026, and ordered H.R. 8879 to be reported favorably to the House of Representatives by a roll call vote of 23 ayes to 0 nos.

V. COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires the Committee to list the recorded votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The Committee voted to favorably report H.R. 8879 to the House of Representatives at 4:10 PM.

Present	Representatives	Aye	Nay
	Mr. Stauber (MN-08)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Meuser (PA-09)		
	Ms. Van Duyne (TX-24)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Ellzey (TX-06)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Alford (MO-04)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Finstad (MN-01)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Wied (WI-08)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Bresnahan (PA-08)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Jack (GA-03)	<i>X</i>	
	Ms. King-Hinds (Del.-CNMI)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Schmidt (KS-02)		
	Mr. Patronis (FL-01)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Fuller (GA-14)	<i>X</i>	
		12	
	Ranking Member Velazquez (NY-07)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. McGarvey (KY-03)	<i>X</i>	
	Ms. Scholten (MI-03)	<i>X</i>	
	Ms. McIver (NJ-10)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Cisneros (CA-31)	<i>X</i>	
	Ms. Morrison (MN-03)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Latimer (NY-16)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Tran (CA-45)	<i>X</i>	
	Ms. Simon (CA-12)	<i>X</i>	
	Mr. Olszewski (MD-02)	<i>X</i>	
	Ms. Goodlander (NH-02)	<i>X</i>	
		11	
	Chairman Williams (TX-25)	<i>X</i>	
	TOTALS	23	0

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
119th Congress (*Second Session*)

Date: 5/20/2026 _____

Time: 4:10 PM ET _____

Measure: **H.R. 8879** – Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act of 2026

Offered By: _____

Amendment #: _____

Result?	<u>Agreed To:</u> [X]		
	<u>Not Agreed To:</u> []		
	<u>Withdrawn:</u> []		
<i>Voice Vote</i>	<i>Ayes</i> 23	<i>Nays</i> 0	<i>Present</i>

FC Vote #	5
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VI. SECTION-BY-SECTION OF H.R. 8879

Section 1—Short title

This Act may be cited as the “Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act of 2026.”

Section 2—Report on small business concern participation in a covered contracting program

This section amends the Small Business Act to require the SBA to submit an annual report to Congress on participation in covered small business contracting programs.

This section requires the SBA to report the total number of certified small businesses participating in covered contracting programs; application and certification determination data; participation across multiple certification programs; and the use of SBA’s unified certification application platform.

Additionally, this section establishes program-specific reporting requirements for the WOSB, HUBZone, and SDVOSB programs. For these three programs, the SBA is required to report on the number of applications denied, the average time for first-time applicants to receive a certification determination, the percentage of applications submitted within the SBA’s timeframe, and the average time for recertification applicants. The report must also include information on applicants seeking certifications in multiple programs and the use of SBA’s certification application platform.

For the WOSB program specifically, this section requires reporting on firms eligible for sole-source awards, certifications processed by national certifying entities, and applications initially submitted without sufficient information for certification determination.

This section also requires SBA to report processing and recertification timeframes for SDVOSBs, WOSBs, and HUBZone small business concerns, including the percentage of determinations completed within SBA’s timelines and the average time required for certification and recertification determinations.

A covered contracting program includes the definitions of 8(a), WOSB, HUBZone, and SDVOSB as referenced in the Small Business Act.

VII. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the Committee has requested but not received a cost estimate from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

VIII. NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(I) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following opinion and estimate with respect to new budget authority, entitlement authority, and tax expenditures. While the Committee has not received an

estimate of new budget authority contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee does not believe that there will be any new or increased costs attributable to this legislation.

IX. OVERSIGHT FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee on Small Business with respect to the subject matter contained in H.R. 8879 are incorporated into the descriptive portions of this report.

X. PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the goal of H.R. 8879 is to increase transparency in SBA small business certification programs.

XI. STATEMENT OF DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no provision of H.R. 8879 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

XII. CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

With respect to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that the bill does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

XIII. FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee will adopt as its own the estimate of the Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

XIV. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

XV. APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

XVI. STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House, the Committee finds that the authority for this legislation in Art. I, § 8, cl.1 of the Constitution of the United States.

XVII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SMALL BUSINESS ACT

* * * * *

SEC. 10. (a) The Administration shall, as soon as practicable each fiscal year make a comprehensive annual report to the President, the President of the Senate, the Senate Select Committee on Small Business, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Such report shall include a description of the state of small business in the Nation and the several States, and a description of the operations of the Administration under this chapter, including, but not limited to, the general lending, disaster relief, Government regulation relief, procurement and property disposal, research and development, technical assistance, dissemination of data and information, and other functions under the jurisdiction of the Administration during the previous fiscal year. Such report shall contain recommendations for strengthening or improving such programs, or, when necessary or desirable to implement more effectively congressional policies and proposals, for establishing new or alternative programs. In addition, such report shall include the names of the business concerns to whom contracts are let and for whom financing is arranged by the Administration, together with the amounts involved. With respect to minority small business concerns, the report shall include the proportion of loans and other assistance under this Act provided to such concerns, the goals of the Administration for the next fiscal year with respect to such concerns, and recommendations for improving assistance to minority small business concerns under this Act.

(b) CYBERSECURITY REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) a strategy to increase the cybersecurity of information technology infrastructure of the Administration;

(B) a supply chain risk management strategy and an implementation plan to address the risks of foreign manufactured information technology equipment utilized by the Administration, including specific risk mitigation activities for components originating from entities with principal places of business located in the People's Republic of China; and

(C) an account of—

(i) any incident that occurred at the Administration during the 2-year period preceding the date on which the first report is submitted, and, for subsequent reports, the 1-year period preceding the date of submission; and

(ii) any action taken by the Administrator to respond to or remediate any such incident.

(2) FISMA REPORTS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) may be submitted as part of the report required under section 3554 of title 44, United States Code.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect the reporting requirements of the Administrator under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, in particular the requirement to notify the Federal information security incident center under section 3554(b)(7)(C)(ii) of such title, any guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, or any other provision of law or Federal policy.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

(B) INCIDENT.—The term “incident” has the meaning given the term in section 3552 of title 44, United States Code.

(C) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term “information technology” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(d) For the purpose of aiding in carrying out the national policy to insure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts for property and services for the Government be placed with small business enterprises, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation, the Department of Defense shall make an annual report to the Committees on Small Business of the Senate and the House of Representatives, showing the amount of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense which have been expended, obligated, or contracted to be spent with small business concerns and the amount of such funds expended, obligated, or contracted to be spent with firms other than small business in the

same fields of operation; and such reports shall show separately the funds expended, obligated, or contracted to be spent for basic and applied scientific research and development.

(e) The Administration and the Inspector General of the Administration shall retain all correspondence, records of inquiries, memoranda, reports, books, and records, including memoranda as to all investigations conducted by or for the Administration, for a period of at least one year from the date of each thereof, and shall at all times keep the same available for inspection and examination by the Senate Select Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives or their duly authorized representatives.

(2) The Committee on Small Business of either the Senate or the House of Representatives may request that the Office of the Inspector General of the Administration conduct an investigation of any program or activity conducted under the authority of section 7(j) or 8(a). Not later than thirty days after the receipt of such a request, the Inspector General shall inform the committee, in writing, of the disposition of the request by such office.

(f) To the extent deemed necessary by the Administrator to protect and preserve small-business interests, the Administration shall consult and cooperate with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government in the formulation by the Administration of policies affecting small-business concerns. When requested by the Administrator, each department and agency of the Federal Government shall consult and cooperate with the Administration in the formulation by such department or agency of policies affecting small-business concerns, in order to insure that small-business interests will be recognized, protected, and preserved. This subsection shall not require any department or agency to consult or cooperate with the Administration in any case where the head of such department or agency determines that such consultation or cooperation would unduly delay action which must be taken by such department or agency to protect the national interest in an emergency.

(g) The Administration shall transmit, not later than December 31 of each year, to the Senate Select Committee on Small Business and Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a sealed report with respect to—

(1) complaints alleging illegal conduct by employees of the Administration which were received or acted upon by the Administration during the preceding fiscal year; and

(2) investigations undertaken by the Administration, including external and internal audits and security and investigation reports.

(h) The Administration shall transmit, not later than March 31 of each year, to the Committees on Small Business of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the secondary market operations during the preceding calendar year. This report shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the number and the total dollar amount of loans sold into the secondary market and the distribution of such loans by size of loan, size of lender, geographic location of lender, interest rate, maturity, lender servicing fees, whether the rate is fixed or variable, and premium paid; (2) the number and dollar amount of loans resold in the secondary market with a dis-

tribution by size of loan, interest rate, and premiums; (3) the number and total dollar amount of pools formed; (4) the number and total dollar amount of loans in each pool; (5) the dollar amount, interest rate, and terms on each loan in each pool and whether the rate is fixed or variable; (6) the number, face value, interest rate, and terms of the trust certificates issued for each pool; (7) to the maximum extent possible, the use by the lender of the proceeds of sales of loans in the secondary market for additional lending to small business concerns; and (8) an analysis of the information reported in (1) through (7) to assess small businesses' access to capital at reasonable rates and terms as a result of secondary market operations.

* * * * *

XVIII. MINORITY VIEWS

Congress has created four small business contracting programs that provide tools for the government to recruit and retain small businesses and to level the playing field for them to enter, compete, and have success in the federal market: (1) Women-Owned Small Business program (WOSB); (2) Historically Underutilized Business Zone program (HUBZone); (3) Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business program (SDVOSB); and (4) the 8(a) Business Development program (8(a)).¹

The programs' requirements and authorities differ but firms must be certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to be eligible for contracts set aside for small business competitions and sole source awards by federal agencies.

The Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act will require SBA's budget justification documents to include information on SBA's certifications: the processes, infrastructure and timelines, as well as participants, backlogs and wait times for each program.

The bill will help ensure the Committee has this information consistently and address recent, bipartisan concerns about whether the SBA is providing the Committee with a full and complete picture on certifications.

For example, in past years, each program had its own online certification platform and designated staff in SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Business Development. As a result, small businesses faced different experiences when seeking a certification. In 2023 service-disabled veterans seeking an SBA certification were served by 20 dedicated SBA staff and 54 contractors, who processed applications in about three weeks. Applicants to the WOSB program were served by 8 SBA staff and 2 contractors, resulting in a backlog of roughly 7,000 applicants and an average wait time of almost a year.²

Since 2015, the SBA has attempted to develop a platform that would bring each of the programs' certifications into one place, with the intent of streamlining the certification process for all small businesses, including and especially applicants seeking more than one certification. In November 2022, after multiple failed attempts by the SBA to produce a unified platform,³ the SBA began developing the Unified Certification Platform (UCP) in 2023, and the

¹The legislation's reporting requirements do not cover the 8(a) Program since that program has a more extensive annual report: The 408 Report to Congress on SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program, <https://www.sba.gov/document/report-408-report-us-congress-minority-small-business-capital-ownership-development>.

²Email from U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN. to the H. COMM. ON SMALL BUS. (10.9.24) (on file with the H. COMM. ON SMALL BUS.).

³U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN. OFF. OF INSPECTOR GEN., EVALUATION OF CERTIFY.SBA.GOV (Jul. 30, 2020).

UCP began accepting initial certification applications in late October 2024.

During this time, members of the Committee raised concerns about the timing of changes, the portal itself and the sufficiency of SBA's responses to Congressional inquiries.

In a House Small Business Committee held a hearing on September 18, 2024 entitled: "Holding the SBA Accountable: Testimony from Small Business Administrator Guzman," both the Chairman and Ranking Member raised the UCP and expressed frustration with SBA's communication to the Committee with the Administrator directly. These concerns were later verified by a GAO report that found SBA did not follow proper processes to develop the UCP.⁴

Additionally, early awareness of growing wait times is particularly crucial for WOSB program applicants, who saw the most severe certification backlog prior to the UCP, and who remain an underrepresented source of talent, innovation, and solutions in the federal marketplace. In the lead up to UCP deployments, the Committee frequently heard from women-owned firms about the backlog of WOSB applications, yet SBA was not forthcoming with that information.

Data show that women are starting and growing small businesses in diverse sectors, but that we must do more to encourage them to sign up to work with the federal government, including by ensuring the efficiency of SBA's certification process. Annual information on the backlog would have allowed Congress to conduct proper oversight and identify issues with the certification processes and SBA portal(s) in a more timely manner.

SBA's annual budget justification documents have previously included limited data on the small business contracting programs' certifications. While they have not included the associated wait times and backlog numbers, they have included data on each of the programs and participants. However, for both Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY 2027, the budget documents did not include any details on the programs.⁵

Current and aspiring government contractors already face enough challenges in the federal market. Unnecessary time or added hurdles just to get a certification, before they can even compete for contracting opportunities, should not be one of them. The Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act will provide consistent, current and relevant information to ensure the SBA programs are effective and performing as intended.

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Ranking Member.



⁴GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFF., IT MODERNIZATION: SBA URGENTLY NEEDS TO ADDRESS RISKS ON NEWLY DEPLOYED SYSTEM (Nov. 6, 2024).

⁵U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., FISCAL YEAR 2026 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION & FISCAL YEAR 2026 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN (May 30, 2025).