

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 524

Honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of the owners of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 21, 2008.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2008

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. THUNE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

APRIL 28, 2008

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of the owners of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 21, 2008.

Whereas the 26,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating more than 2/3 of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product;

Whereas small business concerns represent 99.7 percent of all businesses and employ 50 percent of the Nation's workforce;

Whereas small business concerns represent 97 percent of all exporters and produce 28.6 percent of exported goods;

Whereas small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, advancing technology and productivity;

Whereas the resilience, vitality, and growth of small business concerns are critical to the Nation's competitiveness during a time of economic downturn;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953, to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for property and services for the Federal Government be placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property be made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation;

Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has provided aid and assistance to millions of entrepreneurs who have succeeded in achieving the American dream of owning a small business concern, and thus has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 21, 2008, as National Small Business Week: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

10 (3) recognizes that small business concerns are
11 essential to restoring the Nation's economic health;

12 (4) recognizes the vital role of the programs of
13 the Small Business Administration and the work of
14 its employees and its resource partners in providing
15 assistance to entrepreneurs and the owners of small
16 business concerns;

19 (A) reasonable rules relating to the pro-
20 curement program for women-owned small busi-
21 ness concerns under section 8(m) of the Small
22 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) are expedi-
23 tiously implemented to give women business
24 owners a fair opportunity to compete for Fed-
25 eral contracts;

(B) small business concerns have access to quality affordable health insurance;

(C) the needs of veterans and reservists who own their own businesses, who work for small business concerns, or want to start their own businesses, are met during deployment and upon their return from duty;

(D) proper measures are enacted to provide a stimulus for business lending during this economic downturn;

(E) the tax burdens of small business concerns are reduced, and that there is a reduction in regulatory and bureaucratic barriers;

(F) small minority owned businesses are supported in their efforts to access the Federal marketplace and gain access to capital;

(G) small business concerns have the tools to become more energy efficient to survive rising costs of energy, increase profits, and reduce the Nation's reliance on foreign oil;

(H) all Federal agencies adhere to the contracting goals for small business concerns, including the goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, small business concerns owned and con-

5 (I) venture capital and small business
6 loans, including microloans and guaranteed
7 loans that are delivered through private lenders,
8 for start-up firms and growing small business
9 concerns are available to all qualified small
10 business concerns; and

11 (J) the management assistance programs
12 delivered by resource partners on behalf of the
13 Small Business Administration, such as small
14 business development centers, women's business
15 centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Ex-
16 ecutives, are provided with the Federal re-
17 sources necessary to do their jobs; and

18 (6) urges that the Administrator of the Small
19 Business Administration have an active role as a
20 member of the President's Cabinet.

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