

VELÁZQUEZ, as well as Ranking Member GRAVES for their support and assistance with this important bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H.R. 1839, "to amend the small business act to improve SCORE, and for other purposes." I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman VERN BUCHANAN, for his leadership on this important legislation. The SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) program provides entrepreneurs with the business advice of working and retired executive volunteers.

This legislation will modernize the Small Business Administration's (SBA) small business counseling program. This legislation requires the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to ensure that SCORE carries out a plan to increase the proportion of small business mentors from socially or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and reports annually to the Administrator on plan implementation, establishes benchmarks for evaluating its activities and volunteers and establishes a mentoring program of one-on-one advice to small businesses from qualified counselors.

Over the years SCORE has been providing entrepreneurs with free, confidential, and valuable small business advice. With unprecedented unemployment rates, more people will be trying to start their own business. Their success is vital to our economic recovery. This bill will help ensure that qualified volunteers are available to provide one-on-one advice and counsel to small businesses.

Research shows that small businesses are five times more likely to start if they get assistance from a government supported program such as SCORE. The "Retired Executives Building Better Businesses Act of 2009" would require SCORE administrators to actively recruit and maintain volunteer mentors and track their success. Counselors would be required to have at least ten years of similar experience.

My district is the perfect example of why small businesses are so vital to the nation's economy. Houston's newer and growing economic sub-centers have relied more on small business as their cornerstone than the older Central Business District. According to a report issued by the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration findings suggest that while small firms support urban economic growth, as development proceeds they grow substantially. In turn, small firm growth plays an important role in urban economic development which is likely to lead to economic growth for the entire local economy. Moreover, small businesses—including minority- and women-owned companies—are the leading employers in the Houston area and provide nearly half of all jobs in Texas.

Many small businesses continue to struggle with layoffs, access to capital, cash flow and overall management issues. SCORE has a proven track record of both creating and saving jobs by improving business survival rates as well as accelerating small business formation which is why this legislation is so important. SCORE fulfills a vital role for America's small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs by providing much needed technical assistance. In 2007 SCORE volunteers assisted in the creation of almost 20,000 new small businesses and help create more than 25,000 new jobs each year. Currently, SCORE

has 389 chapters in locations throughout the United States with 10,500 volunteers nationwide.

I urge my colleagues to support small business by voting in favor of this vital legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1839, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1834) to amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1834

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS; TRIBAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTERS PROGRAM.

(a) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 4(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "five Associate Administrators" and inserting "six Associate Administrators"; and

(2) by inserting after "vested in the Administration." the following: "One such Associate Administrator shall be the Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs, who shall administer the Office of Native American Affairs established under section 44."

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 44 as section 45; and

(2) by inserting after section 43 the following:

"SEC. 44. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND TRIBAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTERS PROGRAM.

"(a) OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Administration an Office of Native American Affairs (hereinafter referred to in this subsection as the 'Office').

"(2) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office shall be administered by an Associate Administrator appointed under section 4(b)(1).

"(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office shall have the following responsibilities:

"(A) Developing and implementing tools and strategies to increase Native American entrepreneurship.

"(B) Expanding the access of Native American entrepreneurs to business training, financing, and Federal small business contracts.

"(C) Expanding outreach to Native American communities and marketing entrepreneurial development services to such communities.

"(D) Representing the Administration with respect to Native American economic development matters.

"(4) COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT FUNCTION.—The Office shall provide oversight with respect to and assist the implementation of all Administration initiatives relating to Native American entrepreneurial development.

"(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

"(b) TRIBAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTERS PROGRAM.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator is authorized to operate, alone or in coordination with other Federal departments and agencies, a Tribal Business Information Centers program that provides Native American populations with business training and entrepreneurial development assistance.

"(2) DESIGNATION OF CENTERS.—The Administrator shall designate entities as centers under the Tribal Business Information Centers program.

"(3) ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT.—The Administrator may contribute agency personnel and resources to the centers designated under paragraph (2) to carry out this subsection.

"(4) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Administrator is authorized to make grants of not more than \$300,000 to centers designated under paragraph (2) for the purpose of providing Native Americans the following:

"(A) Business workshops.

"(B) Individualized business counseling.

"(C) Entrepreneurial development training.

"(D) Access to computer technology and other resources to start or expand a business.

"(5) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall by regulation establish a process for designating centers under paragraph (2) and making the grants authorized under paragraph (4).

"(6) DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In this subsection, the term 'Administrator' means the Administrator, acting through the Associate Administrator administering the Office of Native American Affairs.

"(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

"(c) DEFINITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term 'Native American' means an Indian tribe member, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian as such are defined in section 21(a)(8) of this Act."

SEC. 3. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(8) ADDITIONAL GRANT TO ASSIST INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any applicant in an eligible State that is funded by the Administration as a Small Business Development Center may apply for an additional grant to be used solely to provide services described in subsection (c)(3) to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands

of small business startups and expansions owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

“(B) ELIGIBLE STATES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), an eligible State is a State that has a combined population of Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians that comprises at least 1 percent of the State’s total population, as shown by the latest available census.

“(C) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—An applicant for a grant under subparagraph (A) shall submit to the Administration an application that is in such form as the Administration may require. The application shall include information regarding the applicant’s goals and objectives for the services to be provided using the grant, including—

“(i) the capability of the applicant to provide training and services to a representative number of Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;

“(ii) the location of the Small Business Development Center site proposed by the applicant;

“(iii) the required amount of grant funding needed by the applicant to implement the program; and

“(iv) the extent to which the applicant has consulted with local tribal councils.

“(D) APPLICABILITY OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—An applicant for a grant under subparagraph (A) shall comply with all of the requirements of this section, except that the matching funds requirements under paragraph (4)(A) shall not apply.

“(E) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—No applicant may receive more than \$300,000 in grants under this paragraph for any fiscal year.

“(F) REGULATIONS.—After providing notice and an opportunity for comment and after consulting with the Association recognized by the Administration pursuant to paragraph (3)(A) (but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph), the Administration shall issue final regulations to carry out this paragraph, including regulations that establish—

“(i) standards relating to educational, technical, and support services to be provided by Small Business Development Centers receiving assistance under this paragraph; and

“(ii) standards relating to any work plan that the Administration may require a Small Business Development Center receiving assistance under this paragraph to develop.

“(G) ADVICE OF LOCAL TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—A Small Business Development Center receiving a grant under this paragraph shall request the advice of a tribal organization on how best to provide assistance to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance.

“(H) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the following definitions apply:

“(i) INDIAN LANDS.—The term ‘Indian lands’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian country’ in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code, the meaning given the term ‘Indian reservation’ in section 151.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph), and the meaning given the term ‘reservation’ in section 4 of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1903).

“(ii) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ means any band, nation, or organized group or community of Indians located in the contiguous United States, and the Metlakatla Indian Community, whose members are recognized as eligible for the services provided to Indians by the Secretary of the Interior because of their status as Indians.

“(iii) INDIAN TRIBE MEMBER.—The term ‘Indian tribe member’ means a member of an Indian tribe (other than an Alaska Native).

“(iv) ALASKA NATIVE.—The term ‘Alaska Native’ has the meaning given the term ‘Native’ in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b)).

“(v) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term ‘Native Hawaiian’ means any individual who is—

“(I) a citizen of the United States; and
“(II) a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii.

“(vi) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘tribal organization’ has the meaning given that term in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(1)).

“(I) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

“(J) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Funding under this paragraph shall be in addition to the dollar program limitations specified in paragraph (4).

“(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The Administration may carry out this paragraph only with amounts appropriated in advance specifically to carry out this paragraph.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Small Business Administration has always worked to promote entrepreneurship amongst underrepresented groups and within underserved parts of the country. For this community, small business growth means more than just new jobs; it means economic development. That is why SBA offers a number of programs designed to encourage women and minorities to start their own ventures. H.R. 1834, the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act, builds on that tradition of growth through diversity.

As our economy continues to struggle, we need to be creating jobs everywhere we can. This rings especially true amongst underserved groups like Native Americans. After all, few segments of the population are in greater need of job creation. Within the Navajo tribe, the largest in the Native American community, unemployment has long hovered at 50 percent. On certain tribal reservations, it has reached a staggering 80 percent.

In a recent speech to various tribal leaders, President Obama stressed the need for Native Americans to become

“a full partner in the American economy.” Mr. Speaker, what better way to forge that kind of partnership than through entrepreneurship? While their community faces significant challenges, Native Americans have never shied away from starting their own ventures. In recent years, entrepreneurship among Native Americans and Alaska Native women has soared by 69 percent. With this bill, we can build on that growth, supporting the kind of job creation that the Native American community so sorely needs.

As of 2002, there were over 200,000 Native American firms nationwide. While those businesses span a broad range of tribes and industries, they are unified in their need for resources like technical assistance and affordable capital. This bill helps them access those tools. Importantly, it establishes an office focused solely on Native American small businesses, one that can address their unique needs head on.

Like many small business owners, Native American entrepreneurs have been battered by the recession. As a result, many of these men and women are struggling with obstacles like access to capital. For these business owners, entrepreneurial development programs, such as those that provide training for loan applications, can go a long way in easing challenges. H.R. 1834 puts critical training resources within reach, and tailors them to the specific strengths of the Native American firms. By better customizing these programs, we can give Native American entrepreneurs the tools they need to grow and the resources they need to create jobs.

This is an important piece of legislation, and I thank Representative KIRKPATRICK for her work in helping it come together.

I urge its support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1834, a bill to provide additional small business development center resources focused on Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. I’d like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for working in a cooperative and bipartisan manner to bring this bill to the House floor.

The majority of Indian tribe members and Alaska Natives live on or in the immediate vicinity of Indian lands. These lands are generally in remote locations far from access to resources that most Americans take for granted. Due to the remoteness and lack of economic development, it is not surprising that Native Americans suffer from unemployment averages in excess of twice that faced by the rest of the American population.

Enactment of H.R. 1834 is not designed to immediately relieve the harsh circumstances facing many Native Americans. Instead, it is an effort

to bring greater technical assistance to Native Americans so they can create new businesses that will spur economic development.

The committee has heard testimony from Native Americans about the value of the technical assistance provided by SBA's entrepreneurial outreach programs. These programs enable them to navigate the complexities of starting a business. H.R. 1834 recognizes the value of this assistance by codifying the Small Business Administration's Tribal Business Center program. In addition, the bill improves access to Small Business Development Centers by providing the grantees with increased incentives to perform outreach to Native Americans without undermining the core funding provided to Small Business Development Centers.

Finally, the bill requires better coordination between the SBA and tribal organizations in providing technical programs. By providing the technical resources needed to start and manage businesses, H.R. 1834 will challenge the entrepreneurial spirit of Native Americans, increase economic development on Indian lands, reduce poverty, and create a healthier living environment for future generations of the first Americans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the lead sponsor of the bill, the gentlelady from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Thank you for the opportunity to consider my legislation, the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act. The resources in this bill will greatly assist tribal communities develop their economic potential.

I was born and grew up in the White Mountain Apache communities where my father ran a small business. I have seen our Native communities make due with less even when times are good. And in these tough economic times, we can do more to help build communities and bolster local economies on tribal lands.

Like most entrepreneurs, Native small business owners require help with planning, capitalizing, and turning their businesses into thriving businesses. This bill will strengthen economies and create new jobs by expanding the assistance available to Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian small business entrepreneurs under the Small Business Act.

By providing essential training and assistance and helping to capitalize small businesses in Indian Country, Native communities will benefit as their businesses prosper, opportunities for economic development multiply, and new jobs are created. This legislation was included in a House-passed package of policies to encourage entrepreneurship.

Thank you to Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and to Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER for working with me on

this important issue. I am very pleased this legislation is moving forward, and I urge its passage.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1834, the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009, which will promote entrepreneurship within the Native American community. This is the kind of legislation we need to lift us out of this economic downturn. H.R. 1834 will serve as a vehicle to create jobs, support small businesses, and help people get back to work in the communities that need it most.

I acknowledge Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for her leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congresswoman KILPATRICK, the author of this legislation, who worked so hard to help such an underserved community get the opportunities they need to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act establishes the Office of Native American Affairs in the Small Business Administration, SBA, to increase Native American entrepreneurship. H.R. 1834 will enable SBA's administrator to operate a Tribal Business Information Centers program to provide Native American populations with business training and entrepreneurial development assistance. The SBA will contribute agency personnel and resources to the centers, as well as make grants to the centers. In addition, Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians can apply for grants to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement of small business startups and expansions.

In California, the State I represent, there are over 100 tribes, many of varying levels of economic success. As a long time friend and supporter of the Native American community, I am so pleased to champion a bill such as H.R. 1834, which provides economic opportunities that have been denied to this community for so long. But more must be done, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that Native Americans receive the full equal range of opportunities in this country.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because it will provide job training and opportunities to the areas and populations that need the most assistance. The communities served by H.R. 1834 represent some of the most traditionally disadvantaged, isolated, and underserved populations in America. This legislation is yet another example of how Congress is taking the action necessary to respond to the current economic situation with innovative solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1834.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1834, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1842) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Administration's entrepreneurial development programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1842

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Entrepreneurship Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Section 4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) MANAGEMENT AND DIRECTION.—

“(1) PLAN FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall develop and submit to Congress a plan, in consultation with a representative from each of the agency's entrepreneurial development programs, for using the Small Business Administration's entrepreneurial development programs to create jobs during fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The plan shall include the Administration's plan for drawing on existing programs, including Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, SCORE, Veterans Business Centers, Native American Outreach, and other appropriate programs. The Administrator shall identify a strategy for each Administration region to create or retain jobs through Administration programs. The Administrator shall identify, in consultation with appropriate personnel from entrepreneurial development programs, performance measures and criteria, including job creation, job retention, and job retraining goals, to evaluate the success of the Administration's actions regarding these efforts.

“(2) DATA COLLECTION PROCESS.—The Administrator shall, after notice and opportunity for comment, promulgate a rule to develop and implement a consistent data collection process to cover all entrepreneurial development programs. Such data collection process shall include data relating to job creation, performance, and any other data determined appropriate by the Administrator with respect to the Administration's entrepreneurial development programs.

“(3) COORDINATION AND ALIGNMENT OF SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall submit annually to Congress, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, a report on opportunities to foster coordination, limit duplication, and improve program delivery for Federal entrepreneurial development programs.

“(4) DATABASE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The Administrator shall, after a period of 60 days for public comment, establish a database of providers of entrepreneurial development services and, make such database available