

and -women. This expansive network consists of entrepreneurs, business leaders, and executives who volunteer as mentors to small firms both in-person and online.

SCORE has grown to become one of the Federal Government's largest volunteer business adviser and mentoring programs. In 2017, 59 percent of SCORE's clients were women, 39 percent minorities, and 11 percent veterans.

My legislation reauthorizes this essential program so that it will continue to have the ability to meet the needs of entrepreneurs. With technology enhancements and streamlined service processes, SCORE mentoring will now be accessible to business owners, no matter their location.

I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentlewoman from North Carolina if she has any further speakers this evening, and, if not, I believe I have the right to close. So if she has any concluding remarks, I would be happy to yield if the gentlewoman has any other speakers to speak on this issue because I would be closing then.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I do have the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), who will speak on this issue.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I want to lend my voice to this very important essential legislation. Nothing is more important than mentoring, particularly in small businesses. I know in the particular case of the city of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, SCORE is an important asset.

I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her leadership on something that is extremely essential, something that transcends parties. It is about economic growth and economic opportunity, and I thank her for her leadership that she has shown in understanding the importance of mentoring.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I do want to thank Chairman CHABOT for his support.

There is no question that we need to support our small businesses across the country, no matter their location, industry, or expertise level. My bill, H.R. 1700, provides that critical support by reauthorizing a major component of SBA's entrepreneurial programs and clarifying the utilization of the volunteer base.

This bill is supported by the SCORE Association and is reflective of the growth of this program that actively engages business owners, as well as retired executives, to mentor the next generation of job makers.

I want to again thank Chairman CHABOT for working in a bipartisan

manner to help our Nation's small businesses and for his support to reauthorize SCORE.

I would urge all of the Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the commonsense improvements in this bill will allow the SCORE program to continue its mission: helping entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses.

With over 99 percent of all businesses in the United States being classified as small, it is vital that these business owners have access to effective entrepreneurial resources.

H.R. 1700 would ensure that, regardless of location, a small-business owner can access SCORE mentoring and training.

Mr. Speaker, I would, again, like to commend the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her leadership on this important matter. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1700, the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2017.

H.R. 1700 amends the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program (Service Corps of Retired Executives) for FY2018–FY2019.

The program is renamed as simply the SCORE program.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) shall award a grant to the SCORE Association (or any successor group) in order to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs.

By passing this bill, we are ensuring that the program and each of its chapters develop and implement plans and goals to provide services more effectively and efficiently to individuals in rural areas, economically disadvantaged communities, and other traditionally underserved communities.

Such requirements includes plans for electronic initiatives, web-based initiatives, chapter expansion, partnerships, and the development of new skills by participating volunteers.

The SBA's SCORE program embodies the power of public-private partnerships and is dedicated to educating and assisting entrepreneurs and small business owners in the formation, growth and expansion of their small businesses.

I want to thank all the trained volunteers that serve as counselor's advisors and mentors to aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners.

Further, there are approximately 13,000 volunteer business counselors with 348 chapters across the country.

Established in 1965, the Houston chapter has more than 130+ volunteers covering the 9-county Greater Houston Area.

These services are offered at no fee, as a community service.

According to the SCORE Association, in FY13, SCORE estimates that it served over 400,000 clients, and helped to create more than 40,500 new businesses and more than 67,098 new jobs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1700 as it is vital that we support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota). The question is

on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1700, 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.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2655) to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2655

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 "Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the SBA;

(2) the term "Director" means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO;

(3) the term "SBA" means the Small Business Administration;

(4) the term "small business concern" has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a));

(5) the term "small business development center" means a center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648); and

(6) the term "USPTO" means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the USPTO and the SBA are positioned to—

(A) build upon several successful intellectual property and training programs aimed at small business concerns; and

(B) increase the availability of and the participation in those programs across the United States; and

(2) any education and training program administered by the USPTO and the SBA should be scalable so that the program is able to reach more small business concerns.

SEC. 4. SBA AND USPTO PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the Director shall enter into a partnership agreement under which the Administrator and Director shall—

(1) develop high-quality training, including in-person or modular training sessions, for small business concerns relating to—

(A) domestic and international protection of intellectual property; and

(B) how such protections should be considered in the business plans and growth strategies of the small business concerns; and

(2) leverage existing training materials already developed to educate inventors and small business concerns.

(b) TRAINING.—The training developed under subsection (a) may be provided by the Administrator, the Director, or small business development centers established under section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648)—

(1) through electronic resources, including Internet-based webinars; and

(2) at physical locations, including at—
(A) a small business development center; or

(B) the headquarters or a regional office of the USPTO.

SEC. 5. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (S), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (T), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(U) training developed by the Administrator and the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, which may be delivered in person or through a website to small business concerns relating to—

“(i) domestic and international intellectual property protections; and

“(ii) how such protections should be considered in the business plans and growth strategies of the small business concerns.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. 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 gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I rise this evening in support of another bill, H.R. 2655, the Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2017, and I want to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) for his leadership on this bill.

As small entrepreneurs continue to expand their businesses both here and abroad, they must have the tools they need to protect their intellectual property. Entrepreneurs and small-business owners have generated more than 63 percent of new jobs over the last two decades, and small businesses represent about 96 percent of employer firms in high-patenting manufacturing industries.

However, the process for obtaining copyright, trademark, and patent protections both in the United States and abroad can be daunting, even for the most experienced small-business owners. We need to ensure that small-business owners have the tools they need to protect their innovative ideas and products, as intellectual property protections are essential to promoting entrepreneurship and innovation.

Small-business owners often do not have the knowledge or resources to protect their ideas and products, especially when they are competing in the

international marketplace. Most simply cannot afford to retain attorneys to guide them through the difficult process of obtaining intellectual property protections, which leaves them vulnerable to their innovative ideas and products being stolen both here in the United States and internationally.

This bipartisan legislation, introduced by my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) addresses this issue by forming a partnership between the SBA, the Small Business Administration, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or USPTO, giving entrepreneurs the full breadth of knowledge of the Small Business Development Center system and the USPTO. The partnership will provide training for small-business owners, which can be provided by the USPTO, the SBA, or a Small Business Development Center either electronically or at a physical location.

This legislation utilizes existing resources at both agencies to better assist small-business owners and expand their outreach efforts to provide small businesses with the resources they need to address intellectual property issues.

Considering the important role that small entrepreneurs play in our global marketplace, it is our responsibility to ensure that they have the resources they need to better protect their intellectual property. H.R. 2655 addresses this important small business issue and, therefore, I would urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Mr. EVANS for his leadership on this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise to support H.R. 2655, the Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2017.

Innovation is an indispensable driver of economic growth and it ensures America's competitive edge in the global marketplace, but many small innovators who should have IP rights are disadvantaged by a complex system which allows their property to be pirated. Much of the time, all they needed was access to the resources, the expertise, and the knowledge to obtain, monitor, and enforce their rights.

H.R. 2655 corrects this by creating a partnership between the two agencies best suited to help these innovators: the Small Business Administration and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

By leveraging existing IP education and training programs and utilizing the immense network of Small Business Development Centers, innovators will have all the necessary resources to better protect their interests both domestically and internationally.

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I applaud Representative EVANS for recognizing the problem and working to advance the interests of our Nation's small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2655, the Small Business Innovation Protection Act of 2017.

I want to thank my colleague Congressman FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania for working with me to help American small businesses via this critical piece of legislation.

H.R. 2655 directs the Small Business Administration and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to enter into a partnership agreement; one, to develop high quality training for small business concerns related to domestic and international protection of intellectual property and how such protections should be considered in small business concerns' business plans and growth strategies.

Number two, to leverage existing training material already developed to educate inventors as well as small business concerns.

In addition, section 4 of this bill provides that the agencies must use the training material that they already have at their disposal.

I think that Members of the Congress have a special duty to try and ensure that our small businesses have all the tools in the toolbox they need to succeed.

We know that small businesses are critical to the economic strength of our country, especially new and growing tech-based economies.

That is why we should create programs like this to assist entrepreneurs in starting their own businesses, providing structure, and helping them with their progress.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where there are already 1 million small businesses, which, according to the Pennsylvania SBDC, employ 2.4 million workers that make up 47 percent of the private sector labor force, it is critical that these businesses be able to protect their intellectual properties so that they will feel free to continue growth and innovation and prosper.

This bill is a step in the right direction by expanding intellectual property education and training for small businesses. And frankly, Mr. Speaker, this bill is an example of how we can use the power of government to create narrowly tailored solutions to problems in the current public/private partnerships in Pennsylvania and around the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the support of my colleagues.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, there is a letter from the Biotechnology Industry Organization written in support of this particular bill I ask that my colleagues support.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, intellectual property protections offer small innovative firms and entrepreneurs much needed

protection at home and in other countries.

In fact, small business firms with IP rights earned 32 percent more in revenue on average per employee when compared to their counterparts without IP rights.

Without those protections, our economy may not be what it is today.

H.R. 2655 offers necessary education and training to sustain America's competitive edge and drive continued economic growth.

As such, I once again urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation strengthens the partnership between two important Federal agencies that help small businesses protect what they have created: the SBA and the USPTO.

It is important that small firms across the Nation have access to all the tools that they need to protect their creations from intellectual property theft.

Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2655.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOE'S BARBEQUE OF ALVIN, TEXAS, IS A GIFT

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, Alvin, Texas, is known nationally for two things: 42 inches of rain in 24 hours, our gift from Tropical Storm Claudette; and baseball strikeout king Nolan Ryan, our gift from the gods of baseball.

But those gifts are in our past. Our now greatest gift has been going strong since 1976: Joe's Barbeque.

Owner Joe Saladino is a walking, Texan-talking American dream.

Joe opened with four tables, one barbecue pit, and three employees. He served eight potatoes per day; four at lunch and four at dinner.

I was at Joe's a few weeks ago, and man, oh, man, has that world changed. 1,200 Texans eat at Joe's every single day. They enjoy 100 pounds of sausage, 80 briskets, and endless potatoes.

THE SUPREME COURT IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOVE POLITICS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court is supposed to be above politics. Justice is supposed to be blind.

But rather than nominate a fair and balanced jurist to the Supreme Court, the man in the White House has nominated a right-wing operative to replace Justice Kennedy.

Not only that, the nominee is someone who apparently believes that the President is above the law.

Make no mistake. Judge Brett Kavanaugh is no Justice Kennedy.

Whether we are talking about the disgraceful Starr Commission or Bush vs. Gore or the scandalous George W. Bush administration, Judge Kavanaugh has been there. His hands are covered in right-wing muck.

This nomination threatens the rights and liberties the people of this Nation have died for. Confirming Judge Kavanaugh would destroy Roe vs. Wade. It would put ObamaCare at risk, and it would threaten the rights of same-sex couples to marry.

The American people demand justice, and justice is fair, not a justice who is full of hot air.

CONCERNS ABOUT JUDGE KAVANAUGH

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey my strong concerns about President Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

If confirmed, Judge Kavanaugh will be in a crucial position to reshape the laws around a woman's right to make her own medical decisions, but also he will be in a position to affect the right to access quality and affordable healthcare for millions of Americans, and legal protections for LGBTQ citizens.

I am disturbed by Judge Kavanaugh's record on these issues and many others.

Millions of Americans rely on the Supreme Court to uphold these hard-won rights, and they are increasingly imperiled.

My colleagues in the Senate must be sure that Judge Kavanaugh continues to do what the Supreme Court has done for years: preserve, protect, and uphold these constitutional rights for all Americans.

If they cannot be sure that Judge Kavanaugh will do so, they must reject his nomination.

NO COURT SHOULD BE TO THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, headlines of the New York Times:

"Conservatives Close in on Three-Decade Dream: Tipping Court to the Right."

Mr. Speaker, no court should be to the right or to the left. It should be for the American people.

I ask the Senate, and I commit to my constituents, to fight for a thorough and long review of the nominee's record, and to determine whether we are now appointing to the court a political biased aficionado; a person who has worked in politics and as well has shown his bias by way of his extensive and detailed and over-the-top report in the Starr report.

It will be interesting to find whether Mr. Kavanaugh has concern about all of America, because the Supreme Court holds in his hands that responsibility.

The USA Today says, "Family Separation Combines Cruelty and Incompetence."

I ask for the Secretary of Homeland Security to immediately come to the House of Representatives, and I ask the Speaker to provide that opportunity for him to be able to speak to us about why he has lost children and why they are separated from their families.

We need to stop the shooting of babies by those who leave guns for 2-year-olds to shoot themselves.

THE 2018 NATO SUMMIT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this week, America's closest allies have come together to discuss issues critical to our common security at the 2018 NATO Summit.

In these challenging times, with serious global threats, we must affirm our commitment to NATO. Liberty's defense requires strong bonds with proven allies.

Sadly and needlessly, our President's wishy-washy statements regarding the transatlantic alliance have already led to uncertainty and discomfort among our allies. How counterproductive.

Instead of strengthening bridges among freedom-loving nations, our President has derided our closest allies. He has cozied up to Vladimir Putin and North Korea's dictator, even inviting Russia back into the G7 Group.

Putin's murderous regime is waging an illegal war in Ukraine, killing over 10,000 Ukrainians already, displacing millions, and actively seeks to undermine our democratic institutions and alliances.

This President's dangerous behavior is weakening U.S. leadership and global security. NATO has brought peace and security to liberty-loving nations. We must be clearly resolute in our defense of liberty, and to that end, NATO.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAURA SHIPP

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1