

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This commonsense legislation passed out of our committee unanimously and will allow the SBA to be nimbler and more responsive to survivors of a natural disaster, so I would urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There is little doubt that natural disasters result in economic hardship for the people living in those communities. And no matter the scope or the cause of a disaster, the first few weeks are critical to a small firm's recovery.

H.R. 277 seeks to provide that lifeline by permanently increasing the collateralization threshold to \$25,000 and giving peace of mind to disaster victims. This legislation is a much-needed response to the record-breaking disasters of the past 2 years, the impacts of which are still being felt in various parts of the country.

It is a commonsense move, and one supported by the Small Business Administration. In a report assessing the SBA Disaster Loan Program, the SBA recommended that an increase in the unsecured loan limit for disaster loans should be made permanent.

The agency, again, stated as much in congressional testimony at a hearing held last September before our committee and in its fiscal year 2020 budget and legislative proposals.

Again, I thank Ranking Member CHABOT for his support, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 277, 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.

REQUIRING SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT OMBUDSMAN TO CREATE A CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR COMPLIANCE GUIDES

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2142) to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2142

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

SECTION 1. CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR COMPLIANCE GUIDES.

Section 30 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(e) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Ombudsman shall maintain a publicly available website that includes—

“(1) hyperlinks to small entity compliance guides described under section 212(a)(1) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996; and

“(2) with respect to each such small entity compliance guide, the contact information for an individual who can offer assistance to small entities with respect to the rules that are the subject of such guide.

“(f) REPORT ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—The Ombudsman shall include in the annual report required under subsection (b)(2)(C) an assessment of agency compliance with the requirements of section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 for the year covered by such annual report.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2142, which eases regulatory compliance for small businesses.

Agencies are required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act to publish small entity compliance guides for each rule requiring a regulatory flexibility analysis. That guide is supposed to be posted and accessible to the public no later than the day a rulemaking becomes effective.

Yet, our committee continually hears from small business owners that they have great difficulty locating the guides. In our own investigation, we found that Federal agencies are inconsistent in their compliance with this rule.

Small businesses don't always have the resources to navigate multiple agency websites to understand their responsibilities under new laws. Instead, they are worried about meeting payroll, hiring talented workers, and running day-to-day operations of their small firms.

□ 1645

This bill provides a centralized location at the SBA's Office of the National

Ombudsman to make it easier for business owners to find agency regulatory compliance guides and contact information. The SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman was created to help the small business community overcome regulatory barriers and ensure that agency actions are fair and reasonable. Centralizing various agency compliance guides in this office is a logical step to provide transparency and clarity for small businesses.

I want to thank Dr. JOYCE for working with me to identify this issue and find a bipartisan solution to ensure America's small firms have a one-stop shop for regulatory assistance.

I ask my fellow Members to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2142. This legislation offered by committee members Mr. DELGADO of New York and Dr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania make important changes to the SBA Office of the National Ombudsman that will make it easier for small businesses to comply with Federal regulations.

Congress established the Office of the National Ombudsman in 1996 to assist small businesses, small government entities, and small nonprofits when they are subject to excessive enforcement by a Federal agency. Excessive enforcement may include repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats, retaliation, or other unfair enforcement action.

This simple and commonsense bill would require the ombudsman to create a public website to provide the compliance guides required by section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, or SBREFA. Mr. Speaker, these compliance guides help small firms better understand how to comply with the most onerous Federal regulations. Housing them at one spot on the ombudsman's website is an easy way to save a small business a significant amount of time.

It is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), the ranking member of our Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship Subcommittee.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2142. H.R. 2142 is a commonsense bill to ease the burden that Federal regulations place on small businesses.

As a small business owner myself, I can personally attest to the daunting feelings that are associated with new regulations. Navigating the bureaucracy of the Federal Government can be

incredibly intimidating, and I want to thank my colleague, Mr. DELGADO, for his leadership on this issue.

Small businesses account for 99.6 percent of the businesses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These businesses are truly the backbone of the American economy, which is why I was proud to introduce this legislation with my colleague from New York. This legislation takes a simple, yet important, step to reduce the strain that the Federal regulations place on small businesses and provide much-needed transparency.

Any time a Federal agency is required to produce a final regulatory flexibility analysis on a rule, the agency is also required by section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act to publish one or more guides to assist small entities in complying with the rule.

This legislation makes already available information more easily accessible to small businesses by requiring the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a public website to publish these compliance guides and list contact information for persons who can help small entities comply with these rules. Making this information publicly available on a centralized website is a commonsense way to ease the regulatory burden on small firms that are looking for assistance to comply with the Federal regulations.

I again would like to thank Mr. DELGADO for bringing this issue to my attention and the chairwoman and Ranking Member CHABOT from Ohio for their commitment to advancing this bipartisan solution.

I ask each of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this is yet another example of how our committee continues to work across the aisle for the benefit of America's small businesses. We do it in a bipartisan manner, and I want to thank Mr. DELGADO and the doctor, as well, for their leadership on this.

I urge the bill's adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, we know that small business owners don't necessarily have the resources and time to navigate multiple websites to fully understand their responsibilities with Federal laws. My bill is an important step toward reversing these problems. H.R. 2142 will make it easier, not harder, to comply with Federal regulations by providing them one location for compliance assistance.

The ombudsman already maintains a site for guidance, but this bill goes one step further by requiring that they not just provide agency contacts, but also keep a regular, updated page of compliance guides readily accessible to the public. My legislation renews our commitment towards small business growth and success by creating transparency and accountability of Federal agencies.

Again, I want to thank Dr. JOYCE for cosponsoring this bill and putting our small businesses first.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2142.

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.

SBA CYBER AWARENESS ACT

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2331) to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2331

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 "SBA Cyber Awareness Act".

SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS REPORTING.

Section 10 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 639) is amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(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) an assessment of the information technology (as defined in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code) and cybersecurity infrastructure of the Administration;

"(B) a strategy to increase the cybersecurity infrastructure of the Administration;

"(C) a detailed account of any information technology equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment of the Administration that was manufactured by an entity that has its principal place of business located in the People's Republic of China; and

"(D) an account of any cybersecurity risk or incident that occurred at the Administration during the 2-year period preceding the date on which the report is submitted, and any action taken by the Administrator to respond to or remediate any such cybersecurity risk or incident.

"(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—If the Administrator determines that there is a reasonable basis to conclude that a cybersecurity risk or incident occurred at the Administration, the Administrator shall—

"(A) not later than 7 days after the date on which the Administrator makes that determination, notify the appropriate congressional committees of the cybersecurity risk or incident; and

"(B) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator makes a determination under subparagraph (A)—

"(i) provide notice to individuals and small business concerns affected by the cybersecurity risk or incident; and

"(ii) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, based on information available to the Administrator as of the date which the Administrator submits the report, that includes—

"(I) a summary of information about the cybersecurity risk or incident, including how the cybersecurity risk or incident occurred; and

"(II) an estimate of the number of individuals and small business concerns affected by the cybersecurity risk or incident, including an assessment of the risk of harm to affected individuals and small business concerns.

"(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, or any other provision of law.

"(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; and

"(ii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

"(B) CYBERSECURITY RISK; INCIDENT.—The terms 'cybersecurity risk' and 'incident' have the meanings given such terms, respectively, under section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2331, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act of 2019, which strengthens the Small Business Administration's cybersecurity infrastructure to handle and report cyber threats that affect small businesses.

The Small Business Administration processes a significant amount of small business data, and protecting these businesses is essential to its mission. That is why they must protect its precious digital networks from cyberattacks. But after the massive data breach at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 75 percent of Americans are doubtful that the government can protect their personal information.

With 28 million small business owners in the U.S. that provide 64 percent of new private-sector jobs, America cannot afford for small businesses to lose faith in the SBA. Today, we take an important step to restore American confidence in the SBA's cybersecurity protections and prevent the harmful results of cyberattacks.