

mentorship and professional guidance to the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs.

The Women's Business Centers Improvements Act builds on their success by creating uniformity through accreditation for WBCs and increasing maximum grant levels to ensure they have the resources to meet demands for their services.

We all agree that women business owners offer invaluable contributions to our economy. By passing this bill, we are standing with women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members 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 gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4405.

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.

SCORE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ACT OF 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4407) to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4407

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. SCORE PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

Section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

(A) by striking "a Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)" and inserting "the SCORE program described in subsection (c)"; and

(B) by striking "SCORE may" and inserting "the SCORE Association (as defined in subsection (c)) may"; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) SCORE ASSOCIATION.—The term 'SCORE Association' means the Service Corps of Retired Executives Association or any successor or other organization that enters into a cooperative agreement (as described under paragraph (2)) with the Administrator to operate the SCORE program.

"(B) SCORE FOUNDATION.—The term 'SCORE Foundation' means an organization with a mission to support the SCORE Association and volunteers of the SCORE program.

"(C) SCORE PROGRAM.—The term 'SCORE program' means the SCORE program authorized by subsection (b)(1)(B).

"(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the SCORE Association to carry out the SCORE program, which shall include the following requirements:

"(A) ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.—The Administrator shall—

"(i) conduct an annual financial examination of the SCORE Association to ensure that any costs paid for with Federal funds are allowable, allocable, and reasonable;

"(ii) for contracts entered into by the SCORE Association to provide goods or services for the SCORE program of a value greater than an amount determined by the Administrator, review and approve such contracts;

"(iii) establish a system through which the SCORE Association can provide documentation relating to such contracts; and

"(iv) within 30 days of the receipt of a quarterly report on the achievements of the SCORE program submitted by the SCORE Association, reconcile and differences between such report and the performance results of the SCORE program reported in a management information system of the Office of Entrepreneurial Development.

"(B) SCORE ASSOCIATION DUTIES.—The SCORE Association shall—

"(i) manage nationwide chapters of the SCORE program;

"(ii) develop guidance and provide annual training to employees of the SCORE Association on generating and using program income from the SCORE program;

"(iii) submit documentation to the Administrator verifying such annual training is completed;

"(iv) separate funds donated to the SCORE Association from program income and funds received pursuant to a cooperative agreement; and

"(v) establish requirements for volunteers participating in the SCORE program, including requirements that each such volunteer shall—

"(I) based on the business experience and knowledge of the volunteer—

"(aa) provide personal counseling, mentoring, and coaching on the process of starting, expanding, managing, buying, and selling a business at no cost to individuals who own, or aspire to own, small business concerns; and

"(bb) facilitate free or low-cost education workshops for individuals who own, or aspire to own, small business concerns; and

"(II) as appropriate, use tools, resources, and expertise of other organizations to carry out the SCORE program.

"(C) JOINT DUTIES.—The Administrator, in consultation with the SCORE Association, shall ensure that the SCORE program and each chapter of the SCORE program—

"(i) develop and implement plans and goals to more effectively and efficiently provide services to individuals in rural areas, economically disadvantaged communities, or other traditionally underserved communities, including plans for electronic initiatives, web-based initiatives, chapter expansion, partnerships, and the development of new skills by volunteers participating in the SCORE program; and

"(ii) reinforce an inclusive culture by recruiting diverse volunteers for the chapters of the SCORE program.

"(3) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In carrying out this subsection, the SCORE Association shall make use of online counseling, including by developing and implementing webinars and an electronic mentoring platform to expand access to services provided under this subsection and to further support entrepreneurs.

"(4) ACCOUNTING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the SCORE Association shall—

"(A) centralize all accounting and finance systems of each chapter of the SCORE program and develop a uniform policy and procedures to manage Federal funds; and

"(B) designate an employee of the SCORE Association to serve as a compliance officer to ensure expenditures of the SCORE program are fully compliant with any law, regulation, or cooperative agreement relating to the SCORE program.

"(5) COMPENSATION.—

"(A) SALARIES.—The salary of an employee of the SCORE Association may not exceed the equivalent of the maximum rate of pay allowable for an individual in the career Senior Executive Service employed at the Small Business Administration.

"(B) PERFORMANCE AWARDS.—The SCORE Association may spend up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate salaries of employees of the SCORE Association on individual performance awards to employees of the SCORE Association, to be disbursed before the last day of the fiscal year, if not later than 60 days before disbursement the SCORE Association submits to the Administrator a report on the number and amount of such awards to be disbursed.

"(C) SCORE FOUNDATION.—A member of the Board of Directors of the SCORE Association or an employee of the SCORE Association may not simultaneously serve on the Board of Directors of, or receive compensation from, the SCORE Foundation without written approval from the Administrator.

"(6) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS.—The SCORE Association shall—

"(A) annually update all manuals or other documents applicable to employees and volunteers of the SCORE Association or the SCORE program to include requirements relating to reporting procedures and protectors for whistleblowers; and

"(B) conduct an annual training for employees and volunteers of the SCORE Association or the SCORE program on the requirements described in paragraph (1) and emphasize the use of the hotline established by the Office of the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit whistleblower reports.

"(7) PUBLISHED MATERIALS.—The SCORE Association shall ensure all published materials include written acknowledgment of Small Business Administration support of the SCORE program if such materials are paid for in whole or in part by Federal funds.

"(8) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Administrator nor the SCORE Association may disclose the name, address, or telephone number of any individual or small business concern receiving assistance from the SCORE Association without the consent of such individual or small business concern, unless—

"(i) the Administrator is ordered to make such a disclosure by a court in any civil or criminal enforcement action initiated by a Federal or State agency; or

"(ii) the Administrator determines such a disclosure to be necessary for the purpose of conducting a financial audit of the SCORE program, in which case disclosure shall be limited to the information necessary for the audit.

"(B) ADMINISTRATOR USE OF INFORMATION.—This paragraph shall not—

"(i) restrict the access of the Administrator to SCORE program activity data; or

"(ii) prevent the Administrator from using SCORE program client information to conduct client surveys.

"(C) STANDARDS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, after the opportunity for notice and comment, establish standards for—

"(I) disclosures with respect to financial audits under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

"(II) conducting client surveys, including standards for oversight of the surveys and for dissemination and use of client information.

“(ii) MAXIMUM PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The standards issued under this subparagraph shall, to the extent practicable, provide for the maximum amount of privacy protection.

“(9) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the SCORE program, which may be included as part of another report submitted to such Committees by the Administrator, and which shall include—

“(A) the number of individuals counseled or trained under the SCORE program;

“(B) the number of hours of counseling provided under the SCORE program;

“(C) the number of local workshops;

“(D) the number of clients attending online and local workshops;

“(E) the number of unique clients served;

“(F) to the extent practicable, the demographics of SCORE program participants and volunteers, which shall include the gender, race, and age of each such participant or volunteer;

“(G) the cost to create a job, the cost to create a business, and return on investment;

“(H) the number of referrals to other resources and programs of the Administration;

“(I) the number of participants in the SCORE program receiving financial assistance, including the type and dollar amount, under loan programs of the Administration;

“(J) the results of SCORE program participant satisfactory surveys, including a summary of any comments received from such participants;

“(K) the number of new businesses started up by SCORE program participants;

“(L) the number of such new businesses realizing revenue growth;

“(M) to the extent practicable, the number of jobs created with assistance from the SCORE program;

“(N) the total cost of the SCORE program;

“(O) any recommendations of the Administrator to improve the SCORE program; and

“(P) an explanation of how the SCORE program has been integrated with other resource partners and related resources of the Administration.”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SCORE PROGRAM.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that does not exceed \$11,700,000 in each of fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022.”.

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE SCORE PROGRAM.—

(1) STUDY.—The SCORE Association shall carry out a study on the future role of the SCORE program and develop a strategic plan for how the SCORE program will meet the needs of small business concerns during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, with specific objectives for the first, third, and fifth years of the 5-year period.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the SCORE Association shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report containing—

(A) all findings and determination made in carrying out the study required under paragraph (1);

(B) the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1); and

(C) an explanation of how the SCORE Association plans to achieve the strategic plan, assuming both stagnant and increased funding levels.

(b) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON LEASED SPACE.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report containing an assessment of the cost of leased space that is donated to the SCORE Association.

(c) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—Before the last day of fiscal year 2020, the SCORE Association shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the online counseling and webinars required under paragraph (3) of section 8(c) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of this Act, including a description of—

(1) how the SCORE Association determines electronic mentoring and webinar needs, develops training for electronic mentoring, establishes webinar criteria curricula, and evaluates webinar and electronic mentoring results;

(2) the internal controls that are used and a summary of the topics covered by the webinars; and

(3) performance metrics, including the number of small business concerns counseled by, the number of small business concerns created by, the number of jobs created and retained by, and the funding amounts directed towards such online counseling and webinars.

SEC. 5. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 7 (15 U.S.C. 636)—

(A) in subsection (b)(12)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “PROGRAM” after “SCORE”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE program”; and

(B) in subsection (m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII), by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE program”; and

(2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE program”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE program”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(12), by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE program”.

(b) OTHER LAWS.—

(1) SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997.—Section 707 of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) program” and inserting “SCORE program (as defined in section 8(c)(1) of the Small Business Act)”.

(2) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Section 301 of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE program”.

(3) MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPOR-

TUNITY ACT OF 2008.—Section 3(5) of the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is amended by striking “the Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “the SCORE program”.

(4) CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009.—Section 621 of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (15 U.S.C. 657p) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) the term ‘SCORE program’ means the SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)); and

(B) in subsection (b)(4)(A)(iv), by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE program”.

(5) ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT.—Section 337(d)(2)(A) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6307(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)” and inserting “SCORE program”.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION; ADMINISTRATOR.—The terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean, respectively, the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof.

(2) SCORE ASSOCIATION; SCORE PROGRAM.—The terms “SCORE Association” and “SCORE program” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under section 8(c)(1) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) 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 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 gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill before us, H.R. 4407, the SCORE for Small Business Act.

There are nearly 30 million small businesses in the United States, representing more than 99 percent of all businesses. These small firms employ nearly 50 percent of all private-sector employees in the U.S.

The SBA administers a portfolio of entrepreneurial development programs, which includes the SCORE program. Since its inception, the SBA has undertaken efforts to connect new entrepreneurs and small business owners with more experienced businessmen 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. Yet, the SBA OIG found that improvements are needed to ensure SCORE minimizes risk of fraud or misuse of program funds and to strengthen SBA's oversight and the committee's ability to review the effectiveness of the program.

On July 11, 2019, our Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations held a hearing to examine the agency's oversight of the SCORE program. This bill is a direct result of that hearing and much stakeholder engagement.

H.R. 4407 not only reauthorizes this essential program, but it also takes steps to restore integrity, accounting, and performance to the program. Doing so ensures the program 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 commend Congressman HERN and Congresswoman CRAIG for working together to make sure that the counseling and training programs are operating effectively, as well as holding SBA accountable as a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4407, the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019.

This legislation will allow the SCORE program to continue to offer business mentoring and training to thousands of entrepreneurs and small business owners each year.

The SCORE program currently includes over 11,000 volunteer mentors with expertise across 62 industries that collectively provide more than a million hours of business counseling each year.

When an entrepreneur seeks a SCORE mentor, they are purposefully paired with a business professional with knowledge in a specific field or experience facing specific challenges. This process ensures that the goals of the entrepreneur are met by the volunteer mentor.

In addition to SCORE's mentorship services, the program also offers in-person business training classes at its 350 chapter locations nationwide.

Entrepreneurs can also utilize the extensive online training opportunities and free business tools available on SCORE's national website.

Over the last 50 years, SCORE has become the Federal Government's largest business mentoring program with over 800 locations nationally and over 11,000 volunteers. Last year, SCORE mentors provided personalized guidance to nearly 140,000 clients. More than 400,000 cli-

ents attended online and local SCORE workshops.

This legislation will allow SCORE to continue to provide these important services. H.R. 4407, the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2019, adds strict safeguards to core provisions of the SCORE bill passed last year in May.

This legislation, offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG), also establishes strict new compliance and oversight requirements to protect taxpayer dollars and sets new outcome-based performance goals to ensure the program meets the SBA's standards and congressional intent.

These provisions will significantly increase congressional oversight of the program and provide future Congresses with additional information about the health of the program.

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for their leadership on this and also for their very thoughtful approach to the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN), who is the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4407.

The Service Corps of Retired Executives, better known as SCORE, has helped more than 11 million entrepreneurs over the last 50 years. SCORE is a nonprofit organization made up of active and retired business executives who act as mentors for entrepreneurs. These volunteers provide face-to-face counseling on business issues ranging from planning to budgeting, marketing, and financing, all of this at no charge to the entrepreneur.

As a small business owner myself, I can attest to the importance of mentorship programs like this for first-time entrepreneurs. In a country like ours, where a good idea and hard work can put you on the path to the American Dream, the mentorship of an experienced business owner can be a huge asset to a startup.

Today, there are more than 300 SCORE chapters across the country, totaling more than 11,000 volunteers. This includes a chapter in my hometown of Tulsa, which has over 40 volunteers.

H.R. 4407 will continue the success of the SCORE program by reauthorizing the funds while safeguarding the program for the future by modernizing data standards, closing loopholes for fraud, and adding important oversight

to the use of funds. These provisions will only increase the integrity of SCORE and help the program to assist even more small businesses and entrepreneurs.

All the reforms made in this bill are supported by SCORE. This bipartisan effort to invest in our small business owners and encourage more Americans to follow their dreams is a big step forward in support of the things that make our country so special.

I thank my colleague Ms. CRAIG from Minnesota for being an original cosponsor of this legislation and supporting its progress through the committee and now here on the House floor.

The passage of this bill will not only be an important moment for our country's future business owners, but it is also my first piece of legislation to pass the House. Focusing on the businesses that drive our local economies and encouraging the growth of entrepreneurship across our country has been my top priority in Congress.

Reauthorizing and strengthening SCORE is a necessary step to help grow our economy and invest in our communities, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, before I close today, I want to say that I really appreciate the leadership and the bipartisanship of Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT. They do a great job with bipartisanship in their leadership. It is a great example for the people's House. I encourage all of our Members to come sit in on a meeting sometime. It might be something that they would like to see.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers if the gentleman is ready to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The simple improvements in this bill will allow the SCORE program to continue its mission helping entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses.

With the vast majority of all businesses in the United States classified as small, it is vital that these business owners have access to effective entrepreneurial resources. H.R. 4407 would ensure that, regardless of location, a small business owner can access SCORE mentoring and training.

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

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

There is no question that we need to support our small businesses across the country, no matter their location, industry, or expertise level.

H.R. 4407 does exactly that by reauthorizing a major component of SBA's entrepreneurial programs and clarifying the utilization of the volunteer base. This bill is reflective of the growth of the SCORE program, which actively engages business owners, as well as retired executives, to mentor the next generation of job makers.

Most importantly, it responds to the findings of the IG and makes strides to hold the agency and SCORE mentors accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members 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 gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4407.

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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent Resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the Capitol for the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, late a Representative from the State of Maryland.

□ 1615

ESTABLISHING A GROWTH ACCELERATOR FUND COMPETITION

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4387) to establish Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within 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. 4387

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

SECTION 1. GROWTH ACCELERATOR FUND COMPETITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a program within the Small Business Administration to be known as the “Growth Accelerator Fund Competition” under which the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall award prizes on a competitive basis to covered entities that—

(1) assist small business concerns with accessing capital and finding mentors and networking opportunities; and

(2) advise small business concerns, including advising on market analysis, company strategy, revenue growth, and securing funding.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Administrator shall carry out the program established under this section in accordance with the requirements of section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

(c) APPLICATION.—A prize only may be awarded to a covered entity that submits to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to apply for a prize under this section, a covered entity—

(1) may not have an outstanding, unresolved financial obligation to the Federal Government; and

(2) may not be currently suspended or debarred as specified under subpart 9.4 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(e) SELECTION OF COVERED ENTITIES.—From applications submitted under subsection (c), the Administrator shall select covered entities that will provide to small business concerns—

(1) regular networking opportunities, including introductions to customers, partners, suppliers, advisory boards, and other persons;

(2) mentorship opportunities, including advice on strategy, technology, finances, and commercialization assistance;

(3) shared working environments focused on building a strong community amongst other similar small business concerns;

(4) resources and co-working arrangements;

(5) opportunities to pitch ideas to investors and other capital formation opportunities;

(6) small amounts of angel money, seed capital, or structured loans; and

(7) where appropriate, assistance in securing funding under the SBIR program or the STTR program established under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

(f) PRIORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in approving applications under this section, shall give priority to applications that include methods to provide assistance and advice to small business concerns located in underserved communities, including—

(A) small business concerns owned and controlled by women;

(B) small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans; and

(C) small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))).

(2) ALLOCATION.—Of prizes awarded to covered entities under this section in a fiscal year, the Administrator shall ensure that—

(A) not less than 20 percent of such covered entities will assist and advise small business concerns owned and controlled by women; and

(B) not less than 20 percent of such covered entities will assist and advise small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

(g) SELECTION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—A covered entity that receives a prize under the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition shall use a selective process to identify small business concerns to provide assistance and advice described under subsection (a).

(h) DEVELOPMENT OF METRICS.—The Administrator shall develop metrics to evaluate the effectiveness and the benefit to the people of the United States of the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition that—

(1) are science-based and statistically driven;

(2) reflect the mission of the Small Business Administration; and

(3) include factors relating to the economic impact of the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means a private entity that is incorporated in and maintains a primary place of business in the United States.

(3) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms “small business concern”, “small business concern owned and controlled by women”, “small business concern owned and controlled by veterans” have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to carry out the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) 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 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 gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 4387, which establishes the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within SBA.

Accelerator programs provide founders of early-stage companies with education, mentorship, financing, cohort-based training, and technical assistance. There are many accelerator success stories. Among them are well-known companies like Airbnb, Dropbox, and Stripe.

The SBA funds the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition for the Nation’s most innovative, diverse, and promising small business accelerators and incubators. It was created in 2014 to support small business job creation by giving early-stage entrepreneurs opportunities to immerse themselves in an intense learning environment.

Monetary prizes of \$50,000 to each of the winners go a long way towards supporting the development of accelerators and incubators.

Not only does the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition spur economic development and create jobs, but most importantly, it supports innovation in economic areas that are outside of what we have come to think of as traditional coastal tech hubs.

It supports places like the industrial heartland, where barriers to capital access have hindered entrepreneurs. The program also has a proven track record of investing in women and minority entrepreneurs.

The legislation will authorize \$2 million in funds, annually, for 4 years, to