

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 Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3490, 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

#### CONNECTING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRADUATES ACT OF 2025

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1642) to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs for small business development centers and women's business centers, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1642

*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 "Connecting Small Businesses with Career and Technical Education Graduates Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(gg) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The term ‘career and technical education’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).”.

(b) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(1)) is amended—

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

(2) in clause (v) of the first subparagraph (U) (relating to succession planning), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in second subparagraph (U) (relating to training on domestic and international intellectual property protections)—

(A) in clause (ii)(II), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) by redesignating such subparagraph as subparagraph (V); and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(W) providing educational information to small businesses on—

“(i) hiring graduates from career and technical education programs; and

“(ii) career and technical education programs relevant to such businesses, including how to use such programs to satisfy hiring needs of such businesses;

“(X) providing information to career and technical education programs about how students and graduates of such programs can access resources and services of small business development centers to start and expand a small business concern; and

“(Y) as appropriate, connecting small businesses with career and technical education programs to assist students and graduates of such programs with identifying career opportunities.”.

(c) WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(4) providing educational information to small business concerns owned and controlled by women on—

“(A) hiring graduates from career and technical education programs; and

“(B) career and technical education programs relevant to such concerns, including how to use such programs to satisfy hiring needs of such concerns;

“(5) providing information to career and technical education programs about how students and graduates of such programs can access resources and services of women's business centers to start and expand a small business concern; and

“(6) as appropriate, connecting small business concerns owned and controlled by women with career and technical education programs to assist students and graduates of such programs with identifying career opportunities.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

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Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1642, the Connecting Small Businesses with Career and Technical Education Graduates Act of 2025. Earlier this year, I introduced this bill alongside the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI), my friend.

Across America, the skilled labor shortage, particularly in trades, is a growing concern. Industries like construction, healthcare, and manufacturing are struggling to find qualified workers. At the same time, thousands of career and technical education graduates are entering the workforce with the hands-on skills employers desperately need.

This bipartisan legislation offers a commonsense solution. H.R. 1642 requires the Small Business Administration's resource partners to provide small businesses with vital information on how to hire graduates of career and technical education programs.

In addition, it ensures that students and graduates of these programs know about the business counseling resources available through SBA resource partners to help them start and grow their own small businesses.

Solving the skilled workforce shortage will take an all-hands-on-deck approach, and I am proud to lead this important step forward. I thank Representative OLSZEWSKI for joining me in introducing this bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1642.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today as we consider bills that will strengthen the SBA and work to broaden services available to small businesses. These firms employ roughly half of the private workforce, create two-thirds of all new jobs, and generate almost half of our Nation's economic activity.

These aren't just statistics. They are the foundation of our local economies, providing essential services, from plumbers and electricians to physicians, and making towns and cities across the country attractive places to live and work.

They don't work on just their own behalf. They create millions of neighborhood jobs and reinvest in their local communities, from funding Little League teams to engaging in philanthropy.

Over the past 4 years under the Biden administration, we saw a surge in startups, as over 21 million new small businesses were created, the vast majority of which were created by women, including women of color. These acts of hope for the future make our economy stronger and give us reason to celebrate.

Unfortunately, the past few months have caused extreme uncertainty in the small business community. With so many new businesses starting, there is much more we could do on Capitol Hill to support their growth and flourishing.

That is why I am pleased we are here to consider seven bipartisan bills that aim to strengthen SBA services, restore trust and accountability, and expand resources for disabled entrepreneurs.

Turning to our first bill, while college affords opportunity for so many of our students, it isn't the only path to success. For students who are looking for in-demand skills that prepare them directly for the workforce, career and technical education programs can offer viable alternatives. These programs collaborate directly with local private-

sector businesses and tailor curricula to the needs of the community.

At a time when newly graduated students are seeing higher unemployment rates than the broader labor force, small businesses that rely on certain skills are still unable to find qualified workers. By directing small business development centers and women's business centers to provide educational information to small businesses about career and technical education programs, this bill will go a long way in meeting the labor needs of small businesses and also giving the graduates of CTE programs the tools they need to launch and grow their own successful startups.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. BRESNAHAN, and Mr. TRAN for their work on this bipartisan bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1642 to bring necessary solutions to all small businesses, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TRAN).

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1642, the Connecting Small Businesses with Career and Technical Education Graduates Act.

Small businesses can't thrive if they can't access a highly qualified workforce. This legislation will help small business owners connect with graduates of vocational programs and hire employees who can help their businesses thrive.

Talented graduates come out of vocational education programs in my district, like Coastline College in Fountain Valley, and have the skills that small businesses in Orange County need.

This bill will help ensure graduates of career and technical education programs find good-paying jobs that they are already trained for. It is pro-small business, pro-students, pro-workforce, and pro-economic growth. It is a win for everyone.

I am proud to co-lead H.R. 1642. I thank my colleagues, Chairman WILLIAMS and Congressmen OLSZEWSKI and BRESNAHAN, for their leadership in championing this important piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I thank my colleagues, Chairman WILLIAMS, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. BRESNAHAN, and Mr. TRAN, for their bipartisan effort to ensure small businesses have access to the skilled workforce coming out of local career and technical education programs.

For years, small businesses have raised concerns about their ability to find workers with the best skills to staff their businesses. By leveraging our small business development centers and women's business centers, we can

help connect promising graduates of CTE programs to small businesses in need. Moreover, we can help those graduates start and grow their own businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1642, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense 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 Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1642.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

#### WOSB ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1816) to establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1816

*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 "WOSB Accountability Act".

#### SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN FROM GOALS.

(a) EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS FROM GOVERNMENTWIDE AND AGENCY GOALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS FROM GOALS.—Only small business concerns owned and controlled by women that have been certified under section 8(m)(2)(E) shall be included in calculating the goals established—

"(A) under paragraph (1)(A)(v); and

"(B) by the head of a Federal agency for small business concerns owned and controlled by women under paragraph (2)."

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the first day after the end of the second fiscal year beginning after the Administrator issues the regulations required under subsection (b)(2).

(b) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS.—

(1) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS IN GOALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a small business concern described in subparagraph (B) shall be

deemed to have been certified by the Administrator or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) as a small business concern owned and controlled by women under paragraph (2)(E) of such section (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(2)(E)) for the purposes of calculating the goals described in paragraph (4) of section 15(g) of the such Act (as added by subsection (a) of this Act) until the Administrator or such a national certifying entity make a determination with respect to the certification of such concern.

(B) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS DESCRIBED.—A small business concern described in this subparagraph is a small business concern—

(i) that is self-certified as a small business concern owned and controlled by women as of the date on which the amendments made by subsection (a) take effect;

(ii) that files a certification application with the Administrator or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) prior to such date; and

(iii) for which the Administrator or such a national certifying entity does not make a determination prior to such date regarding certification pursuant to such certification application.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue regulations carrying out this section.

(c) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and on a quarterly basis thereafter until the date specified in subsection (b), the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a briefing on the implementation of the requirements of this section. Such briefings shall include—

(1) the total number of small business concerns expected to seek certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by women;

(2) the number of applications for certification pending with the Administrator or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of the Small Business Act during the period covered by the briefing;

(3) the total number of applications approved by the Administrator or such a national certifying entity since the date of the enactment of this Act;

(4) the timelines associated with processing such applications by the Administrator or such a national certifying entity between submission and approval;

(5) the administrative costs to the Administration to make determinations on such applications and the estimated cost to such applicant to seek certification from a national certifying entity;

(6) a discussion of the Administrator's current and future outreach efforts to small business concerns owned and controlled by women and to Federal agencies on the requirements of this Act; and

(7) recommendations for additional legislative authority or resources required to fully implement the requirements of this Act.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" means the Small Business Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term "small business concern" has the meaning given under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).