

June 7 is National Trails Day, a call to get outside and enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us.

I am especially proud to highlight a true gem in my district, the Trails at Jakes Rocks, located in the heart of the Pennsylvania Wilds.

This stunning trail system was named Pennsylvania's 2024 Trail of the Year and for good reason. It offers world-class mountain biking and breathtaking views across the Allegheny National Forest, welcoming everyone from beginners to seasoned outdoor enthusiasts.

In today's digital world, our trails remind us of the value of unplugging and reconnecting with nature, with one another, and with ourselves.

Trails like Jakes Rocks are more than just pathways. They are investments in public health, economic development, and quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the volunteers, local leaders, and outdoor enthusiasts who have made this trail possible.

AID TO GAZA

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Gaza is starving. Since March, Palestinians have waited for food, water, medical supplies, and nutrition kits that have not come.

Instead, an estimated 170,000 metric tons of aid sits right outside the Gaza Strip, prohibited to enter by Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Let me be clear. Since October 7, the return of all hostages, living and dead, has been my priority. They must be returned home to their loved ones, living and deceased.

Dignity must be afforded Palestinians, as well. Children must be fed. Doctors must be able to treat the injured and the dying. As of now, that has not happened.

Instead, there is chaos, gunfire, and imminent death. Half of the 2.3 million Gazans soon face starvation. Gaza is at risk of an avoidable famine.

Look at this photo of a young girl in her father's arms who has lost more than 40 percent of her body weight. That is the condition in Gaza.

Look at this photo of desperately needed aid sitting right outside reach.

Where is our humanity? Where is our compassion? We must bring aid, hope, and life to Gaza.

HONORING A.E. "PETER" PIERCE

(Mr. EZELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of a great Mississippian, A.E. "Peter" Pierce of Helena, who went home to be with the Lord in the early morning hours of May 24.

Peter was the best to everyone. He was a devoted husband to his beloved,

Grace, for 69 years; a U.S. Army veteran; a hardworking father; grandfather; and public servant.

He was a man whose quiet faith was lived out in everyday acts of service. From the shipyards of Pascagoula to the halls of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, from coaching Little League to mowing the church lawn, even after his diagnosis, Peter gave his time, his energy, and his heart to others.

He was a faithful member of Escatawpa Assembly of God, a friend to the forgotten, and a kind man who cooked Christmas breakfast for his grandkids, always reminding them he was the most blessed man on Earth.

We grieve his loss, but we celebrate a life well lived, and we thank God for the example he gave us.

LIFESAVING FOREIGN AID

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the 17th time to demand that the Trump administration deliver on its promise to restore funding for lifesaving food aid.

This so-called pause on lifesaving food aid is unnecessary and unconscionable.

"Anybody who tells you that we can slash foreign aid and that will bring us to balance is lying to you." Foreign aid is less than 1 percent of our budget. That is a quote from Marco Rubio before he worked for Donald Trump. This is not how we solve our budget problem. A fraction of a fraction of a percent of the Federal budget goes to lifesaving global food aid.

The Trump administration has said they will restore it. They need to follow their own words and do so immediately before more lives are lost.

I will keep speaking on this floor every day until they do.

HONORING EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the women's rowing team at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on their first-ever national championship as a rowing team and to recognize the university for its first-ever national championship since it joined the NCAA II era.

They won this race, rowing more than a mile, 2000 meters, in Mercer Lake, New Jersey. If we think about it, that is a long way to row. I understand this. I have two sons who are rowers. It is a very, very challenging sport. I congratulate them for doing it.

Not only did they win the national championship but Head Coach Grant Maddock earned the Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year honors.

Soleil Edwards, my son's former teammate, was named winner of the NCAA ELITE 90 award. This means she had the highest GPA of anyone rowing at that national championship.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate them, and I wish them the best of luck in the season ahead.

WELCOMING NONSTOP FLIGHT FROM INDIANAPOLIS TO DUBLIN

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, Indiana is at the Crossroads of America. The Indianapolis International Airport is in my district. It is one of the reasons we proudly hold the claim to the distinction of Crossroads of America.

This past month, Indianapolis International Airport welcomed a nonstop transatlantic flight to one of our gates. The flight from Indianapolis to Dublin on Aer Lingus marked the start of daily nonstop service to this European gateway and onward connections throughout Europe.

Importantly, it represents an important economic development tool. Indianapolis has long been recognized as one of our country's best midsize airports. We completed a multiyear, multibillion-dollar infrastructure project to ensure that Indianapolis is prepared for our growing economy.

In addition to 53 nonstop designations served by Indianapolis, we are the home of FedEx's national hub, only the second largest in the country for FedEx. Our maiden Aer Lingus flight is a testament to the strength of Indianapolis and reflects the global reach of our Hoosier economy.

I look forward to continuing my work to enhance IND and other airports across Indiana's Sixth District.

□ 0915

AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS FIRST ACT OF 2025

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 458, I call up the bill (H.R. 2966) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to require an applicant for certain loans of the Administration to provide certain citizenship status documentation, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 458, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Small Business, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2966

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 “American Entrepreneurs First Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR CITIZENSHIP STATUS DOCUMENTATION FOR CERTAIN LOAN PROGRAMS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall ensure that any application for a loan submitted under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) or title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.) includes the following information:

(1) The date of birth for each individual applicant for such loan or for each individual owner of an applicant concern.

(2) Certification that—

(A) an individual applicant for such loan is a citizen of the United States, a national of the United States, or a lawful permanent resident of the United States; or

(B) an applicant concern for such loan or a guarantor for such loan is 100 percent beneficially owned by individuals who are either citizens of the United States, nationals of the United States, or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

(3) Certification that no direct or indirect owner of an applicant concern for such loan is an ineligible person.

(4) Documentation of the alien registration number of any lawful permanent resident who is—

(A) an individual applicant for such loan; or

(B) an owner of an applicant concern.

(b) *PROHIBITION.*—An applicant for a loan under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) or title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.) is ineligible for such loan if—

(1) the applicant submits the application for such loan after the date of the enactment of this Act and such application does not contain the information required under subsection (a);

(2) in the case such applicant is an applicant concern, any direct or indirect owner of such applicant concern is an ineligible person; or

(3) in the case such applicant is an individual applicant, such applicant is an ineligible person.

(c) *INELIGIBLE PERSON DEFINED.*—In this Act, the term “ineligible person” means—

(1) an asylee;

(2) a refugee;

(3) an individual issued a visa to remain in the United States;

(4) an alien classified as a nonimmigrant under any subparagraph of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15));

(5) an alien to whom deferred action has been granted pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy announced by the Secretary of Homeland Security on June 15, 2012; or

(6) an alien present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now 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 submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2966, the American Entrepreneurs First Act of 2025, introduced by Representative VAN DUYNE from the great State of Texas.

For 4 years under the Biden-Harris administration, the SBA approved loans for illegal immigrants despite their ineligibility. This bill requires citizenship verification of SBA loan assistance applications to ensure that taxpayer-backed loans go only to American entrepreneurs.

This Congress, the Committee on Small Business is working to carry out the Made in America agenda alongside the Trump administration. It is critical that we get the capital necessary for U.S.-owned small businesses to ensure they have everything they need to expand and grow.

This bill codifies both President Trump's executive order to end taxpayer subsidization of open borders and Administrator Loeffler's SBA 7(a) program guardrails put in place earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill for Main Street America so Americans can achieve the dream of entrepreneurship and business ownership, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2966, the American Entrepreneurs First Act.

If we really wanted to put American entrepreneurs first, we would be debating a bill to strengthen SBA lending and make it easier to access capital, or we could stop playing political games and finally vote to exempt small businesses from these painful on-again, off-again tariffs. That would put American entrepreneurs first.

Unfortunately, this bill does nothing to help small businesses grow or adjust to supply chain disruptions or unexpected tariff costs. Rather, it will actually make it harder for thousands of legally operating small businesses to get the financing they need at a time they need it most.

SBA loans are supposed to help creditworthy businesses that cannot get loans elsewhere. That includes many immigrant-owned businesses, businesses that follow the rules, pay taxes, and create jobs in our communities.

Let's set the record straight. First, the Small Business Act already prohibits the use of funds for individuals not lawfully within the United States. Contrary to any statement that my

colleagues may make that Democrats have supported this, this is incorrect. The statute is clear. Secondly, there is no evidence, not a shred of evidence, that has been shared with Members of Congress, the public, the IG, or other law enforcement officials.

My colleagues across the aisle keep claiming that the Administrator, along with DOGE, identified a case wherein an illegal alien—we will get to my thoughts on that term in a minute—received a nearly \$1 million loan despite holding only 49 percent ownership of a business.

These allegations are unsubstantiated. We have seen no documents, data, or details that have been shared to support this claim. This claim reportedly came from DOGE, which immediately sets off alarm bells given the well-documented issues with privacy and accuracy since its inception.

It is also troublesome that Republicans are blindly relying on the SBA Administrator's word. At our committee hearing the day before yesterday, all we heard from her was empty rhetoric and evasive answers. I would need to see some evidence before accepting her word on a case such as this.

If we are being asked to enact such drastic measures without proper vetting or a thoughtful process, then we need more than her assurances. We need evidence. We need real facts, not fabricated ones, to back up these accusations.

Republican support for this bill seems to be strictly based on this one case, but without the facts and circumstances, how can we know the truth?

Oftentimes, my counterparts seem to refer to anyone born outside the U.S. as an “illegal,” but Democrats understand the nuances of immigration status. What they call an illegal may actually be a visa holder, a green card holder, or someone with DACA or TPS protections. Precision of language matters, especially when it involves accusations of fraud.

That brings me to my next point. Without a full accounting of this case, we could be looking at an illegal rescission of loan funds made by the Trump administration. For all we know, the recipient of that loan was in compliance with the SBA rules at the time, rules that, I should note, were in place during the first Trump administration.

Those rules required 51 percent ownership of a business by a citizen or permanent resident, meaning a 49 percent ownership stake by a short-term resident, like a DACA recipient, was permissible if other requirements were met. It allowed a pathway for hardworking, documented persons to become entrepreneurs and give back to their communities.

Is this administration simply misrepresenting the rules and calling foul for no reason; or are they the ones in the wrong by rescinding a loan that was issued lawfully; or is this all just a manufactured narrative? We may never

know because, despite repeated requests, the Administrator hasn't shared any information.

On that note, if they have identified this as fraud or abuse, then there is a process in place to turn over these findings to the Office of Inspector General and other law enforcement for a full investigation. No such referral has occurred, and no SBA IG has yet been named after the illegal firing of Mike Ware, a respected watchdog praised by Democrats and Republicans alike.

We also keep hearing about the need to protect taxpayers' money and ensure SBA loans go to deserving small businesses. I don't disagree, but I remind my colleagues that some of the individuals they refer to as "illegals," which in many cases means people with TPS or DACA status, do pay taxes. They contribute to Social Security. The previous 51 percent ownership rule recognized that and created a pathway for them to access some entrepreneurial assistance, but only as a minority partner with a permanent resident.

This rule codifies the new rule that 100 percent of the business must now be owned by a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. That might sound reasonable until you hear the real-world consequences.

Businesses could be shut out of SBA lending because of a foreign investor with less than 2 percent ownership. A husband and wife could not get a loan because one of them is a European citizen with an ownership interest in the business. Despite their clear commitment to creating local jobs and investing in their community, under this bill, they are also being penalized.

The harm isn't limited to businessowners. The bill creates a new set of compliance burdens that SBA lenders are not equipped to handle. Banks will have to verify the citizenship status of every owner down to the last percentage point, something they have told us could expose them to legal risk under civil rights laws like the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

We have also heard concerns that the information collected under this bill could be shared with immigration enforcement. This could turn the SBA from a resource for all small businesses into an enforcement arm of DHS. That is not what the SBA is for.

Finally, let me point out the double standard here. For years, Republicans have complained about regulations and reporting requirements being too burdensome for small businesses and lenders, but now they are ready to impose an incredibly complicated, mandatory, and invasive new compliance regime without offering any new resources to support it.

This bill is about scoring political points at the expense of immigrant entrepreneurs. It sends a message that some people, no matter how hard they work or how closely they follow the rules, do not deserve the same shot at success. We should be expanding opportunity, not closing it off.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and stand up for the small businesses that make our communities stronger, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the great State of Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in the past 107 days since President Trump was inaugurated and Administrator Loeffler took the helm at the Small Business Administration, we have seen incredible strides toward streamlining services, eliminating waste, and ensuring that every taxpayer dollar delivers immeasurable results.

Beyond tackling bloat, inefficiencies, and burdensome regulations, the administration has partnered with us to deliver real results for the American people.

Today, congressional Republicans are partnering with them through my bill, the American Entrepreneurs First Act.

We have heard this bill described this morning as complicated and as taking drastic measures. Drastic measures mean that the SBA is going to need new resources to be able to actually do their job.

Simply put, all this does is say that when they are giving out SBA loans, they have to require age verification and citizenship status verification. That is it. How complicated and drastic is that? Verify age and citizenship status, that is it. It is codifying an important executive action that is already taking place.

In recent months, it has been discovered that under the previous administration, lax safeguards have allowed illegal aliens, children, and even the deceased to apply for and receive SBA assistance.

Thanks to the great work done by this administration, we learned that in June 2024, the SBA approved a \$783,000 loan application for a small business that was owned by almost one-half, 49 percent, by an illegal alien.

Further, they found that between 2020 and 2021, the SBA issued over 3,000 loans totaling \$333 million to borrowers over 115 years old—one more time, that is \$333 million of taxpayer dollars that went to borrowers over 115 years old—and more than 5,500 loans totaling \$300 million to children under 11 years old. Is that where we want our dollars to be spent?

We know, without a doubt, that the previous administration welcomed millions of illegal aliens into our country when, during the first 50 days of the Trump administration, ICE made over 32,809 arrests, which included 14,111 convicted criminals, including 1,155 criminal gang members.

□ 0930

We cannot allow those kinds of folks who are in our country illegally to take money away from hardworking

Americans who are applying for SBA taxpayer-backed loans.

I am thankful to see that the tide is now turning and that we have a new day here in America, but it is important that we pass this legislation to protect the successes of this administration in the long term.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the American Entrepreneurs First Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, if this is so easy, then let's bring 1071 back. The type of information that it is requiring and that it is imposing lenders to provide is at the very front end, while 1071 is voluntary at the end of a loan being approved, then we are not burdening small businesses and lenders today.

By the way, this bill likely violates the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. SBA lenders have already told us that they are likely to pull back from lending not to violate ECOA.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. MCIVER).

Mrs. MCIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my amazing Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2966, a bill that does not serve our small business community, despite its name.

At a time when local businesses are working hard to keep their doors open and their workers employed, this bill would make it even harder to access the capital they need to survive.

By adding new documentation requirements around age and citizenship, it slows down the loan process and risks excluding legitimate applicants, particularly those from immigrant and mixed-status communities who already face steep challenges.

Let's be honest about what this bill really does. It uses small business policy as a vehicle for immigration politics. That is not only misguided, it is harmful.

Small businesses are still feeling the aftershock of inflation, supply chain breakdowns, and rising costs. We should be focused on helping them recover and grow, not creating new hoops for them to jump through.

What is especially troubling is that this bill would lock into law a policy that was rolled out without enough input and with little regard for economic consequences.

Immigrant businessowners start businesses at high rates. They create jobs. They invest in their communities. If we care about economic growth, we cannot afford to turn our backs on them.

As someone who has worked closely with small business owners in immigrant communities, I have seen the resilience and determination they bring to our economy.

This bill sends the wrong message and sets the wrong priorities. We

JUNE 5, 2025.

should be making it easier for small businesses to access the tools they need to thrive. That means focusing on the actual issues that they raise with us every day. Let me remind my colleagues on the other side that those issues would be inflation, access to capital, workforce shortages, and the lingering effects of—guess what, drumroll—tariffs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this bill.

This bill does not put American businessowners first. In fact, it sets them back.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentlemen from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, today the House advances another pillar of President Trump’s America First agenda with the passage of the American Entrepreneurs First Act of 2025.

This bill ensures that taxpayer-funded SBA loans are reserved for American small businesses, not illegal aliens, certainly not children or people who are dead.

Americans are grateful to finally have a President in office who is protecting their taxpayer dollars and looking to weed out waste, fraud, and abuse. Billions of loans have been flagged for suspected fraud and ineligible applicants, including illegal aliens.

The Trump administration has instituted a policy requiring SBA loan applications to include citizenship verification provisions. It is common sense. This bill codifies these Trump-era safeguards into law so that no future administration can turn Federal relief into a global giveaway.

This is about ensuring we have the validation mechanisms in place to ensure the rule of law. It is about prioritizing Americans. It is about making sure that when a small business owner like those in Texas, or anywhere else, fills out an application, they know the system is fair and the resources are theirs to access.

With every bill codifying President Trump’s EOs, we are moving closer to a government that puts America first, protects American workers, and restores American sovereignty.

Let’s support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have heard supporters of this bill say it is about protecting taxpayer dollars and stopping fraud, but the facts just don’t back that up. There is no evidence that undocumented immigrants are getting loans they are not supposed to. In the one case Republicans like to cite, not prove, that has been provided, it is highly likely that DOGE and the current administration are confusing the rules that were in place at the time with the stricter 100 percent ownership requirement they imposed later.

That is what this bill is really doing. It targets small business owners who

are here legally, people like DACA recipients, visa holders, and refugees; people who are building businesses, creating jobs, and following every rule.

Republicans also claim this bill is about accountability, when in reality it creates a mess for lenders. It forces them to track and verify the age and citizenship status of every single businessowner down to the last percentage point. It requires all of this information just to be considered for the loan, unlike the section 1071 rules which required voluntary reporting after the loan’s origination. This bill makes compliance a requisite for obtaining a loan.

I have to ask, after all of the complaints we have heard over the years about section 1071, how do my colleagues justify this now? How do my colleagues justify imposing this regulatory regime against lenders and borrowers?

Right now small businesses are struggling. Tariffs are driving up the costs of goods. Supply chains are under pressure. Instead of giving entrepreneurs the tools they need to grow, this bill adds more barriers and more uncertainty. If it is to become law, it is going to hurt the very small businesses which it will be trying to help.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a little bit of concerns about 1071. There is a huge difference between what we are requiring in this and what 1071 required. That was for all businesses, for all loans. It was not voluntary, and if businesses did not comply, they could actually be fined. What we are asking for is simply verification of legal status and age for companies that are applying for American taxpayer-backed loans.

Now, this should not surprise anybody. This proposed rule increases lending security and ensures that taxpayer dollars are used well. Further, participating in government lending programs like the 7(a) program naturally involves complying with government rules. This is no different.

U.S. taxpayer dollars back the SBA lending programs, and adding additional assurances, like age and legal status verification, making sure loans go to lawful citizens is just common sense.

Lender concerns related to nationality discrimination are nonsensical. This law does not prohibit lending based on nationality but rather on legal residency or status.

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

Section 1071 the borrower can decline after the loan. The lender cannot get information from a trade group.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters in opposition to the bill, one from the Small Business Majority and another from UnidosUS.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROGER WILLIAMS,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ,
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS, MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES AND RANKING MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: As a representative of America’s 34 million small businesses, Small Business Majority writes to express our opposition to H.R. 2931, the Save SBA from Sanctuary Cities Act of 2025, and H.R. 2966, the American Entrepreneurs First Act.

Amid an increasingly more difficult economic environment, the federal government should do everything it can to meet small businesses where they are, which is why H.R. 2931 is an example of a policy proposal that would be ineffective at best and harmful at worst. The bill, which would require the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to relocate any regional, district or local SBA office housed in a ‘sanctuary jurisdiction’, ignores the fact that millions of small businesses are located in or near cities that could be designated as a ‘sanctuary jurisdiction.’ Moving offices farther away from the small businesses they were intended to support certainly would not facilitate SBA better servicing these small firms. What’s more, there is no evidence to even suggest that a city’s policy toward immigrants has any relationship to its ability to effectively meet the needs of local small businesses. With that in mind, we strongly encourage members of the House of Representatives to ignore distractions like H.R. 2931 and focus on policies that would truly benefit America’s entrepreneurs.

In addition to ongoing efforts to shutter regional offices, with no detailed or communicated plans as to where those offices will be relocated or when, SBA has also slashed its workforce by 43%, further restricting the agency’s ability to meet the growing demands of today’s small businesses. Recent national polling found that 78% of small business owners are concerned about cuts to the SBA and its programs. Nearly 8 in 10 small business owners report having used SBA programs for their business.

Also up for consideration is H.R. 2966, the American Entrepreneurs First Act, which doesn’t live up to its name. Some small businesses that are majority owned by Americans have foreign investors, and under this bill those businesses would be denied access to critical Small Business Administration resources. What’s more, this legislation ignores the fact that immigrant communities are a vital hub of entrepreneurial activity in the United States. Immigrants who may not yet be citizens employ American citizens and pay taxes to the United States government; they too deserve access to Small Business Administration resources. Small Business Majority strongly supports uplifting immigrant communities working in good faith to obtain U.S. citizenship. These bills will lead to less vibrant communities and fewer Main Street business opportunities for many in search of the American Dream. Congress should do all it can to support America’s job creators, not pick and choose winners within the small business community based on nothing more than where a small business owner was born.

We urge your office to oppose H.R. 2931 and H.R. 2966 as both proposals undermine the

SBA's capacity to carry out its mission and strip resources away from hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,

JOHN ARENSMEYER,
Founder & CEO, *Small Business Majority*.

TUESDAY JUNE 3, 2025.

DEAR HILL COLLEAGUE, On behalf of UnidosUS, we urge Members to vote NO on both the Save SBA from Sanctuary Cities Act (H.R. 2931) and the American Entrepreneurs First Act (H.R. 2966).

H.R. 2931 represents an unacceptable politicization of the Small Business Administration (SBA), proposing to strip vital SBA resources from so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions. This would deny millions of small businesses, especially those in underserved communities, access to essential services such as loans, disaster relief, and technical assistance, simply based on where they are located. These are businesses already navigating high prices and ongoing economic instability caused by the chaotic policies of the administration. Punishing them because their local governments instituted policies to draw a line between local law enforcement responsibilities and federal immigration enforcement will only deepen inequities and disrupt local economies.

H.R. 2966 adds insult to injury by imposing sweeping new restrictions on SBA loan eligibility, explicitly excluding entrepreneurs with certain immigration statuses—including asylees, refugees, DACA recipients, visa holders, and undocumented individuals. Many of these individuals are lawfully present in the U.S. and are creating jobs, paying taxes, and helping their communities thrive. Shutting them out of SBA programs undermines entrepreneurship, limits innovation, and weakens our long-term economic competitiveness.

Immigrant entrepreneurs open businesses at higher rates than native born Americans and Latino-owned businesses contribute almost \$800 billion to the nation's economy. And as we noted in our 2024 analysis on Latina Equal Pay Day, Latinas are key drivers of the U.S. economy. Their economic output exceeds \$1.3 trillion, surpassing the GDP of Florida, and they own over a quarter of all Latino-owned businesses. Yet despite these contributions, Latinas face profound structural barriers, earning just 58 cents for every dollar earned by non-Hispanic white men, and with nearly two-thirds lacking access to employer-based benefits. These challenges would be compounded by H.R. 2931 and H.R. 2966, which threaten to strip away the limited federal support many Hispanic entrepreneurs and workers can access.

By excluding entire categories of immigrant entrepreneurs, these bills risk driving more individuals into the shadow economy, undermining transparency and accountability. States and localities have a strong interest in knowing which businesses are operating in their communities, including street vendors and other informal enterprises. Instead of supporting these efforts, the legislation would make it harder to identify and engage such businesses, ultimately hindering local economic development and effective regulation.

Together, these bills are part of a broader effort to scapegoat immigrants, even when doing so comes at the direct expense of American small businesses and working families. We urge Members to reject this harmful and short-sighted agenda by voting NO on H.R. 2931 and H.R. 2966.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let me say that H.R. 2966 will not improve SBA lending or support small businesses. This bill creates new barriers,

targets legally operating entrepreneurs, and burdens lenders with requirements they aren't equipped to meet. Small businesses are struggling.

This administration's trade policies have increased uncertainty and made it nearly impossible for many small firms to do business. The small businesses in my district and those that have reached out to my committee are not asking for this legislation. They want stability, and they want more support.

This bill risks making things worse by reducing access to capital for many small businesses that are following the rules. We should be working together to lift these businesses up, not passing laws to punish them.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill and focus instead on solutions that will truly help American small businesses.

Let me say, they brought this bill to the floor without a single hearing, no expert witnesses, no nothing.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes" on this commonsense legislation, the American Entrepreneurs First Act. We need to put the guardrails up to support Main Street America.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 458, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 190, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 156]

YEAS—217

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan

Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Cuellar
Davidson
Davis (NC)
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)

Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gillen

Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa

Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Suozi
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—190

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier

Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfeth
Escobar
Españat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden (ME)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)

Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Pallone
Panteta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peters
Petersen
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross

Ruiz	Soto	Torres (NY)
Ryan	Stansbury	Trahan
Salinas	Stanton	Tran
Sánchez	Stevens	Underwood
Scanlon	Strickland	Vargas
Schakowsky	Subramanyam	Vasquez
Schneider	Swalwell	Veasey
Scholten	Sykes	Velázquez
Schrier	Takano	Vindman
Scott (VA)	Thanedar	Wasserman
Scott, David	Thompson (CA)	Schultz
Sewell	Thompson (MS)	Waters
Sherman	Titus	Watson Coleman
Simon	Tokuda	Whitesides
Smith (WA)	Tonko	Williams (GA)
Sorensen	Torres (CA)	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Ansari	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mullin
Buchanan	Hoyle (OR)	Norcross
Clarke (NY)	Kamlager-Dove	Omar
Comer	Lee (FL)	Pingree
Crenshaw	McClain Delaney	Sherrill
De La Cruz	Meuser	Tlaib
Gimenez	Miller-Meeks	Van Orden
Goldman (NY)	Moore (AL)	
Gottheimer	Moore (WI)	

□ 1015

Ms. STEVENS changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I missed the Roll Call today. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 156, H.R. 2966.

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend today's vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 156.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025, TO MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next, June 9, 2025, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE DURING THE 119TH CONGRESS

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11(a)(1) of rule X, during the 119th Congress, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be composed of not more than 27 Members, of whom not more than 15 be from the same party.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHMIDT). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JERRY DANFORTH

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jerry Danforth, a distinguished Tribal leader, decorated Navy veteran, and beloved husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away on the morning of June 1, 2025, at the age of 78.

Jerry devoted his life to service, first to his country and then to his people. He served honorably in the Navy for over three decades, retiring in 1994 with the esteemed rank of force master chief. He was a veteran of both the Vietnam war and Desert Storm, embodying courage, commitment, and leadership throughout his career.

Jerry brought the same conviction and discipline to his leadership within the Oneida Nation. He was elected chairman of the Oneida Business Committee in 1995 and again in 2005. A public servant in every sense, Jerry also served his Nation as a judge on the Oneida judiciary, where his wisdom, fairness, and devotion to justice left a lasting impact.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Danforth's life was defined by service, leadership, and love. His legacy will endure in the lives he touched, the institutions he shaped, and the Nation he served so faithfully. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, his community, and the entire Oneida Nation. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN JANE PRATT

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Congresswoman Jane Pratt.

This week in 1946, she was sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first woman to represent North Carolina in Congress.

Prior to her election, she served as a congressional secretary for 22 years.

As a Member of this body, she was an important voice, urging passage of legislation for major flood control in a reservoir in North Carolina. She also joined other women Members in supporting First Lady Bess Truman's food program to support struggling people in post-war Europe.

After her term in Congress, Congresswoman Pratt went on to serve the American people at various Federal agencies for more than a decade. She proved everyone wrong who questioned whether a woman was up to this job almost 80 years ago, and today, I proudly stand on her shoulders.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces, without objection, the Speaker's appointment, pursuant

to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, and notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11(a)(4)(A) of rule X, the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Ms. STEFANIK, New York, to rank after Mr. CRAWFORD

Mr. COHEN, Tennessee

CELEBRATING FATHERHOOD

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater joy than being a father. I am blessed with six incredible children, 17 grandkids, and they are the heartbeat of everything I do.

This Father's Day, I am proud to reintroduce a resolution to recognize the power and necessity of fathers shaping strong families and stronger communities.

The data is clear: Kids with engaged fathers do better in school, avoid crime, and thrive economically and emotionally. But this isn't about data. It is about dignity.

When fathers are empowered to lead, love, protect, and mentor their children, entire communities are transformed.

I am grateful to my friend Jack Brewer and The Jack Brewer Foundation for their tireless work in restoring fathers to the center of the family, especially in our most underserved communities.

This resolution is a call to action: to support policies that strengthen families, encourage responsibility, and promote a culture that values dads.

Let's celebrate fatherhood, the survival of our American culture depends on it.

WHICH ELON MUSK TO BELIEVE

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, which Elon Musk should we believe?

In February, he called the U.S. Agency of International Development, USAID, “corrupt”, “beyond repair,” and “a ball of worms” that needs to be eliminated. He claimed that there is a “gigantic fraud loophole” where government funds given to NGOs lack sufficient oversight.

In March, Elon Musk called Social Security “the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time,” and policy followed his comments.

Then this week he said that: “If the massive deficit spending continues, there will only be money for interest payments and nothing else: no Social Security, no medical, no defense, nothing.”

This week he said about the big, ugly bill: “I am sorry, but I just can't stand