

the timeframe established by the Administrator;

“(ii) the average time for a first-time applicant to receive a certification determination;

“(iii) the average time for an applicant that is a small business concern owned and controlled by women to receive a recertification determination; and

“(iv) the average time for an applicant certified by a national certifying entity to receive a determination from the Administrator, disaggregated by initial certification applications and recertification applications.

“(H) With respect to applications of small business concerns for certification as a qualified HUBZone small business concern that have sufficient information for the Administrator to issue a certification determination—

“(i) the number of applications certified;

“(ii) the number of applications denied; and

“(iii) the number of applications for which a determination has not been made.

“(I) With respect to each application of a small business concern for certification as a qualified HUBZone small business concern, the timeframe between the date of submission of a completed application and the issuance of a certification or recertification determination, disaggregated by—

“(i) the number, expressed as a percentage, of certification determinations made within the timeframe established by the Administrator;

“(ii) the average time for a first-time applicant to receive a certification determination; and

“(iii) the average time for an applicant that is a qualified HUBZone small business concern to receive a recertification determination.

“(2) COVERED CONTRACTING PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered contracting program’ means contracting assistance provided by the Administrator under following:

“(A) Section 8(a).

“(B) Section 8(m).

“(C) Section 31.

“(D) Section 36.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI) 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 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8879, the Oversight and Transparency for Small Business Certifications Act of 2026, introduced by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. WIED).

As the Trump administration continues its focus on government efficiency and eliminating fraud within

Federal programs, Congress needs the information necessary to determine where these programs are succeeding and where they need improvement.

SBA's small business contracting programs help connect eligible small businesses with Federal contracting opportunities. Programs such as the women-owned small business certification, the HUBZone program, and the service-disabled veteran-owned small business program help ensure that small businesses can compete for Federal contracts and grow their businesses.

To effectively oversee these programs, Congress must have access to reliable data on how the certification process is performing. H.R. 8879 requires the SBA to submit annual reports to Congress on certification activities across the agency's small business contracting programs.

The bill requires reporting on certifications granted and denied, application processing times, participation rates, recertification timelines, and the use of the SBA's certification platform.

This information will provide greater transparency into program operations, strengthen congressional oversight, and help ensure that these programs continue to serve eligible small businesses efficiently and effectively.

By improving accountability and providing Congress with better information, this legislation will help protect taxpayer resources while supporting small businesses seeking to compete in the Federal marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 8879, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Congress' ability to conduct effective oversight depends on regular access to information on the programs and authorities that SBA uses to assist small businesses.

The committee has repeatedly experienced issues with SBA responses and reporting on the small business procurement programs, including the WOSB certifications, the 8(a) Business Development program, and the Unified Certification Platform.

Currently, the SBA is not providing needed information, including regular reports and basic data on contracting certifications that have been routinely provided in the past.

This bill would help to ensure that we have consistent information and a more complete picture on one of the SBA's core missions, certifying small business Federal contractors. Small business government contractors already face barriers to entering and competing in the Federal market. An SBA certification should not be an additional burden.

I thank the chairman for his support, and I thank Representative WIED for his co-leading on this bill. I urge all Members to support my bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we must pass H.R. 8879 to increase transparency in Federal small business contracting programs by requiring SBA to report on participation in its certification programs so Congress can better evaluate their effectiveness.

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

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are critical partners with the Federal Government. They provide goods and services to support agency mission needs, and they make up critical links throughout the supply chain.

Passing this legislation will ensure the committee has timely information on the applications, certifications, and platforms that allow small firms to enter and have success in the Federal market. I urge all Members to vote “yes” on my bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 8879 to ensure small business contracting programs are working as they are intended. 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. 8879.

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.

SMALL BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE EVALUATION ACT OF 2026

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8880) to require the Comptroller General to evaluate Federal cybersecurity assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8880

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Cybersecurity Assistance Evaluation Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. GAO STUDY ON SMALL BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of current Federal cybersecurity initiatives, programs, resources, tools, and services intended to assist owners of small business concerns (as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) with—

(1) identifying cyber risks, cyber threats, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities relating to such concerns;

(2) assessing the preparedness of such concerns for such risks, threats, and vulnerabilities;

(3) planning for, mitigating, and recovering from cyberattacks and incidents of social engineering, scams, and fraud (including developing, adopting, and implementing cybersecurity measures, training, protocols, tools, and infrastructure); and

(4) identifying sources of capital, or obtaining capital, to carry out the activities specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(b) **REQUIRED CONTENT.**—The study required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) information on the most common cyberattacks affecting small business concerns;

(2) an identification and description of the Federal cybersecurity initiatives, programs, resources, tools, and services included in the study described in subsection (a);

(3) an assessment of the awareness and use of such Federal cybersecurity initiatives, programs, resources, tools, and services by small business concerns and reasons for differences in levels of such awareness and use;

(4) an assessment of the coordination and integration among such Federal cybersecurity initiatives, programs, resources, tools, and services;

(5) an assessment of the effectiveness of such Federal cybersecurity initiatives, programs, resources, tools, and services in assisting small business concerns with the activities listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a);

(6) an identification of any foundational cybersecurity concepts absent from such Federal cybersecurity initiatives, programs, resources, tools, and services; and

(7) recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness, awareness, and coordination of such Federal cybersecurity initiatives, programs, resources, tools, and services for small business concerns.

(c) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General 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 all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No such funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. **WILLIAMS**) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. **OLSZEWSKI**) 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8880, the Small Business Cybersecurity Assistance Evaluation Act of 2026, introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. **SIMON**) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. **BRESNAHAN**), my friends.

Small businesses are facing a growing wave of cybersecurity threats from

ransomware attacks, phishing scams, and fraud schemes. Unfortunately, many small businesses lack the financial resources and technological expertise necessary to defend themselves against increasingly sophisticated crimes.

Data indicates that small businesses are 210 percent more likely to experience a cyber incident than larger companies. At the same time, 51 percent of small businesses reported having no cybersecurity measures in place, leaving them particularly vulnerable to malicious cyber activity.

□ 1530

As artificial intelligence becomes more and more prevalent, threat actors are increasingly using AI-generated content and impersonation schemes to target small business owners and their employees. These developments raise questions about the extent to which existing cybersecurity resources and Federal support adequately address the risks small businesses face.

While the Federal Government currently offers a variety of cybersecurity programs, tools, resources, and even services to assist small business, it is often unclear whether businessowners are aware of the resources available, whether they are utilizing them, and whether gaps exist in current Federal efforts.

H.R. 8880 takes a practical approach. This bill directs GAO to evaluate how Federal agencies help small businesses identify cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities, assess preparedness for small businesses to have a plan for and recover from cyberattacks, and access resources needed to strengthen their cybersecurity infrastructure.

This legislation also directs the GAO to assess the awareness, coordination, accessibility, and effectiveness of existing Federal cybersecurity assistance programs and identify opportunities for improvement. By examining what works and what needs additional attention, Congress can better ensure that resources reach the small businesses it serves.

As cyber threats continue to evolve, small businesses need access to effective tools, training, and resources to protect their operations, employees, and customers. This legislation will provide Congress with valuable information to strengthen cybersecurity assistance and help ensure Main Street businesses are better prepared for the challenges of the digital age.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 8880, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 8880, the Small Business Cybersecurity Assistance Evaluation Act of 2026, as amended.

Since the COVID pandemic, firms of all sizes have increasingly adopted technology. According to the U.S.

Chamber of Commerce, 99 percent of small businesses use at least one tech platform, with 58 percent using at least four, but only one-quarter use cybersecurity tools.

This gap creates glaring weaknesses in Main Street America's cyber posture, weaknesses that cybercriminals are all too willing to exploit to steal funds, proprietary information, and other critical assets. While various Federal agencies provide cyber resources, their collective impact needs improvement.

The SBA is uniquely equipped with the small business outreach experience and network to help entrepreneurs with these technical matters, leveraging other agencies' expertise.

H.R. 8880 will direct the U.S. Government Accountability Office to report on the state of Federal small business cybersecurity resources and make recommendations to optimize their impact and use by small businesses.

I thank my colleagues Ms. **SIMON**, Mr. **BRESNAHAN**, and Ranking Member **VELÁZQUEZ** for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. **SIMON**), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. **SIMON**. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan legislation, the Small Business Cybersecurity Assistance Evaluation Act.

Much has been said, but this bill would direct the Government Accountability Office to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the cybersecurity threats facing our small businesses. It would ensure that Congress has the best data available to protect our small businesses from cyberattacks.

Now, we know that small businesses in this country drive innovation, create jobs, and support our communities in every single corner of all 50 States.

In my district alone, there are 16,000 small businesses, and we know, as it was said earlier, that approximately 99 percent of small businesses use at least one technology platform. At the same time, cyber threats are becoming more and more sophisticated by the day.

Many small business owners do not have dedicated cybersecurity staff or the resources to protect themselves. A single cybersecurity attack could mean the difference between survival and failure for our mom-and-pop businesses residing on our Main Streets.

I am very grateful to Congressman **BRESNAHAN** for partnering with me to introduce this very important legislation. I thank Chairman **WILLIAMS** and Ranking Member **VELÁZQUEZ** for their continued leadership on behalf of America's small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

Mr. **WILLIAMS** of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we must pass H.R. 8880 to help identify gaps, improve coordination, and

ensure those resources effectively address cyber threats facing small businesses.

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

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Small Business Cybersecurity Assistance Evaluation Act which I was proud to introduce with Representative SIMON.

This bipartisan bill makes sure that the Federal resources designed to help small businesses bolster their cybersecurity defenses are working as intended and are identifying where they are falling short.

Small businesses are 210 percent more likely to experience cyber incidents compared to larger companies, yet many lack the resources and the expertise necessary to defend against these threats.

As cyber incidents become more common, it is very clear: Congress can no longer afford to overlook this growing issue. By finding the gaps in current programs, this bill will help ensure our small businesses have better access to the tools, training, and resources they need to strengthen their defenses against cyberattacks.

As these threats continue to evolve, our support systems for America's small businesses must evolve as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8880 puts us on a path to meaningful reforms in Federal small business cybersecurity assistance. I commend Ms. SIMON and Mr. BRESNAHAN for their dedication to Main Street's cybersecurity.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 8880 to help strengthen cybersecurity, support small businesses, and ensure Federal resources are being used effectively to protect from growing cyber risks, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). 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. 8880, 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.

SBA ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE UTILIZATION ACT OF 2026

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8881) to amend the Small Business Act to require the Ad-

ministrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning by the Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8881

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "SBA Artificial Intelligence Utilization Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. REPORTS REGARDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING USE BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

Section 10(c) of the Small Business Act is amended to read as follows:

"(C) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING USE REPORTS.—

"(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Administrator 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—

"(A) the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning by the Administration;

"(B) the benefits and risks posed by the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in the work of the Administration, including in impeding the operations of the Administration; and

"(C) measures that the Administrator can take to effectively identify, evaluate, and manage such benefits and risks, including explanations of how the Administrator can—

"(i) retain human involvement in important decisions informed by recommendations made by artificial intelligence or machine learning;

"(ii) identify tasks and functions that artificial intelligence or machine learning can and cannot reliably and effectively perform, including whether artificial intelligence and machine learning can improve operations, productivity, or customer service;

"(iii) determine which specific artificial intelligence or machine learning tools are appropriate for a particular task or function, if such task or function is determined to have the potential to be reliably and effectively performed by artificial intelligence or machine learning; and

"(iv) determine whether an artificial intelligence or machine learning tool adequately fills a need of the Administration and is worth adopting to fulfill such need.

"(2) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator submits each report required under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall provide to the committees described in such paragraph a briefing on such report.

"(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms 'artificial intelligence' and 'machine learning' have the meanings given, respectively, in section 5002 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9401)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI) 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 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8881, the SBA Artificial Intelligence Utilization Act of 2026, introduced by Representative FINSTAD from the great State of Minnesota and Representative LATIMER from the great State of New York.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming how businesses operate. Across this great country, companies are using AI and machine learning technologies to improve customer service, detect fraud, streamline operations, and process information more effectively. As these technologies continue to develop, Federal agencies should evaluate how to responsibly leverage them to better serve the American people.

The Small Business Administration plays a critical role in supporting entrepreneurs and job creators across this Nation. As the agency works to improve service delivery, strengthen program integrity, and modernize its operations, Congress should have visibility into how emerging technologies are being used.

H.R. 8881 requires the SBA to submit annual reports to Congress regarding the agency's use of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies. The bill requires the SBA to evaluate both the benefits and risks associated with these technologies, identify appropriate uses for AI tools, and explain how the agency maintains human involvement and oversight in its decisions assisted by AI.

□ 1540

As the Federal Government works to prevent fraud and protect taxpayer dollars, AI tools can help the SBA better identify suspicious activity, detect improper payments, improve customer service, and strengthen oversight of agency programs. At the same time, Congress must ensure that these technologies are deployed responsibly and transparently.

By providing regular information to the SBA's use of artificial intelligence, this legislation will help promote a more efficient and accountable government while ensuring that innovation is paired with appropriate oversight and human judgment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 8881, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the prospect of AI in government brings forth a deluge of feelings for many policymakers, myself