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 Johnson, E. B.
 Johnson, Sam
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 Lungren, Daniel
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 Meek (FL)
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 Miller (FL)
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 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Minnick
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Mollohan
 Moore (KS)
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 SUTTON
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 Taylor
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 Thompson (CA)
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Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walden
 Walz
 Wamp
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson

□ 1435

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2352) to amend the Small Business Act, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this measure which will update and improve the SBA's ED programs. This bill is a bipartisan product and will not only strengthen small firms but will help them create new jobs for American workers.

This week, we are honoring our Nation's job creators, the entrepreneurs who generate roughly 70 percent of all new positions. As we celebrate Small Business Week this year, we find ourselves in a different place than in celebrations past. The economic landscape has changed considerably, and in the face of an historic recession, small firms cannot always go it alone. After all, starting and running a small business is no easy lift, even when times are good. That is why the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act is so important. It revs up the engine of our economy, the entrepreneurs who are creating jobs and changing the way our country does business.

This bill gives small firms the tools they need to flourish. By enhancing SBA's entrepreneurial development programs, it will help existing businesses grow and allow aspiring entrepreneurs to get off the ground. These resources are critical. In fact, small firms that use them are twice as likely to succeed than those that don't. But unfortunately, many of these initiatives are outdated and underfunded. Today, we will take important steps to ensure they are running at full capacity.

Despite declines in corporate America, the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well. Every month, 400,000 new businesses start up across the country. Imagine if each of those firms had access to resources like business development training. Through H.R. 2352 they will. This bill provides entrepreneurs with the tools they need to do everything from draft a business plan to secure equity capital. These services put small firms on a level playing field, allowing them to compete in virtually any sector, including the Federal marketplace.

Although most industries are struggling, the Federal marketplace is booming. With billions of stimulus dollars now in play, that sector presents

NOT VOTING—10

Bachmann
 Barrett (SC)
 Braley (IA)
 Frelinghuysen

Murtha
 Polis (CO)
 Rush
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Speier
 Stark

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUIJÁN) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1433

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 627 and include extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 277, I inadvertently voted "aye." I meant to vote "nay." I want the RECORD to properly reflect that.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

JOB CREATION THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 457 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2352.

enormous opportunity for entrepreneurs. But before they can crack the industry, small firms will need to know its ins and outs. H.R. 2352 provides the training they need to do so. It also offers the necessary technology.

In order to adapt to new markets, many entrepreneurs will need to retool their operations. Through cutting-edge technology programs, this bill allows entrepreneurs everywhere to access the information they need. In doing so, it encourages entrepreneurship in places where it might not otherwise grow. For struggling rural regions and inner cities, H.R. 2352 will be an economic catalyst. It will also reflect the changing face of American business. More and more, women, veterans, and Native Americans are starting their own firms. For these people, entrepreneurship is more than a means of employment; it is a path to economic independence.

From rejuvenating rural regions to promoting entrepreneurship in under-represented communities, ED makes good economic sense. And in fact, every \$1 put into the program puts another \$2.87 into the Treasury. If you ask me, that's a pretty good return on investment. By modernizing and enhancing the program, the returns will only get better. Because at the end of the day, strengthening entrepreneurial development programs empowers small businesses, allowing them to grow and, perhaps most importantly, create new jobs for American workers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. This legislation reauthorizes some of the SBA's most critical programs, those that prepare America's entrepreneurs to start and maintain successful small businesses.

The Small Business Administration, or the SBA, accomplishes this important mission through its Office of Entrepreneurial Development and its use of programs such as Small Business Development Centers, or SBDCs; the Women's Business Centers, WBC; the Service Corps of Retired Executives, or SCORE; the Office of Veterans Business Development; the Office of Native American Affairs; and its distance learning program. These programs have not been reauthorized in a comprehensive way in nearly 10 years, and given the changes in the economy, it is long overdue.

Starting and maintaining a successful business has always been a daunting task, fraught with unforeseen and unavoidable problems and pitfalls for American entrepreneurs. In the past, a solid business plan, a loan from friends or a banker that you knew and good old-fashioned hard work was a recipe for success. The entrepreneurial development programs at the SBA were available to assist fledgling and seasoned small business owners in navi-

gating the difficult entrepreneurial terrain of developing a business plan and growing their businesses.

However, times are more difficult now. Financing is harder to get. Competition does not just come from the business down the street but comes from businesses all around the world. In acknowledgment of these new challenges and their need for immediate attention, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009 addresses the changing climate for entrepreneurs and makes minor tweaks to programs that have a record of success.

These programs are even more critical today as the country's economy is more focused on small businesses. As more large corporations begin to close or downsize, many more Americans have chosen to go into business for themselves and are in need of the type of guidance the entrepreneurial development programs at the SBA provide.

But it is not just fledgling entrepreneurs and those downsized from large corporations who have the desire to run their own businesses. When the men and women who have chosen to serve their country honorably in the armed services leave, they are faced with beginning new careers. Often they choose to serve their country in another way. These Americans frequently choose to open up a small business and contribute to the growth of America's economy. For these great Americans, we must provide them with the very best training to make their transition to civilian life as equally secure.

This bill seeks to expand and improve the educational and training resources provided by the SBA to our veterans. Although the SBA currently runs a veterans outreach and education program, no such program is authorized under the Small Business Act. This legislation would correct that and expand the number of centers available to serve our veterans. It is a small price to pay for the sacrifice they have made for us.

Many aspiring entrepreneurs live in rural areas or work out of their homes. Neither may have access to physical locations at which the SBA and its partners offer education and training. Given today's technology, we can provide these entrepreneurs with appropriate education through quality distance learning programs. H.R. 2352 requires the SBA, working with private vendors, to develop online courses that will educate entrepreneurs about starting and expanding their businesses, including having the opportunity to obtain online counseling from other business owners.

Often forgotten are our Native Americans located in very remote areas of the country. They, too, can contribute to economic growth if they have access to education and training programs offered by the SBA. H.R. 2352 codifies the Office of Native American Affairs at the SBA and directs that office to expand its service to Native Americans through the use of Tribal Business In-

formation Centers. These centers will provide entrepreneurial education programs that meet the unique needs of Native Americans.

The broadest effort at entrepreneurial development is the Small Business Development Center program, a joint program between the SBA and institutions of higher learning. Changes in the bill modernize the management and establish, without risk to core funding, competitive grant programs designed to provide businesses with the best practices for things such as raising capital in constricted lending markets.

Half of all small business owners are women. Many small business owners who are women have benefited from training they have received at Women's Business Centers over the years and, as a result, have made great contributions to their communities. This bill makes several changes to the Women's Business Centers to ensure that they are functioning at their optimum level and reaching as many women as possible. In addition, the bill also makes provisions to ensure that the centers are on a sound path to self-sufficiency.

□ 1445

This will free up funds to allow new centers to open and serve areas not currently served by the Women's Business Centers.

These entrepreneurial programs frequently rely on the dedication of volunteers. Advice from executives, whether active or retired, proves invaluable to small business owners.

The SCORE Program at the SBA oversees a core of 11,000 knowledgeable volunteers willing to offer guidance to small business owners. It is an effective program that should offer more services. H.R. 2352 does just that by expanding the ability of SCORE to offer greater outreach and improved counseling to small business owners.

It is obvious that the SBA operates a number of entrepreneurial development programs. Many provide an overlapping service. While it is important to ensure that small businesses are receiving the necessary training, it is also important that these programs operate in the most efficient manner possible. And this bill before us requires the SBA to increase its oversight of these programs, improve coordination, eliminate waste and duplication.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation makes critical changes to vital programs at a critical time. And, in short, this bill sharpens already existing tools employed by the SBA to cultivate one of our Nation's greatest natural resources, its entrepreneurs. Mr. SHULER and my fellow Missourian, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, should be commended for their work on this bill. And I would like to thank the chairwoman very much for her bipartisan efforts in moving this key bill through the committee. I'd also like to thank Ms. FALLIN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SCHOCK and

Mr. THOMPSON for their vital contributions to this legislation. And I'd encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation with me.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the chairwoman for her extraordinary leadership in the Small Business Committee, along with Ranking Member GRAVES, their hard work, their dedication and truly working in a bipartisan way. Far too often here in Washington, it's too much partisanship. But within this committee we're seeing the great leadership and the great work of Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ.

Also I would like to congratulate the ranking member on the subcommittee, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, for his outstanding work and all the members and staff and their hard work and their dedication on this very important legislation that can help us get out of the recession through the work of our small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, as we observe Small Business Week, we have an opportunity to not only celebrate small businesses but to strengthen them.

Entrepreneurs are the beating heart of the American industry. They don't just create jobs, more jobs than big businesses, they unlock more new markets and create more products. Entrepreneurs generate 60 to 80 percent of all new positions and are the most effective drivers of the economic growth.

At a time when big companies are slashing their work force, we need to invest in businesses that are creating jobs, not cutting them. Entrepreneurial development programs or ED, do just that. And the benefits don't stop at small business community.

Every dollar spent on these initiatives drives another \$2.87 back into the economy. In 2008 alone, ED programs pumped \$7.2 billion into communities across the country. They also laid the groundwork for 73,000 new jobs.

Small businesses have a history of sparking recovery. The Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act will give them the tools they need to succeed. As the name suggests, the Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act, or H.R. 2352, focuses on the job creators. It will give existing firms the tools necessary to succeed and allow new businesses to get off the ground.

That's important because small firms can pull us out of this recession. After all, they did it in the mid-1990s. At that time small firms created 3.8 million jobs, ushering in an era of prosperity.

Today, national unemployment is on the rise. By 2010, it is expected to reach 9.8 percent. In my home State of North Carolina, it's already 10.8 percent. That is why H.R. 2352 is so important. It incentivizes our job creators so they can put Americans back to work.

Small Business Administration ED programs are critical resources. Small firms that use these services are twice as likely to succeed. This legislation

takes important steps in strengthening ED. ED helps entrepreneurs do everything from draft business plans to access capital. It also encourages entrepreneurship within underrepresented groups and underserved communities.

H.R. 2352 includes language to encourage veterans and Native American business ownership. It modernizes SCORE, makes improvements to the Women's Business Centers and establishes distance learning initiatives.

As we celebrate Small Business Week, I can't imagine a better time to invest in entrepreneurs. They are all a very vital and very important part of our economic recovery, not only in this year but in decades to come. Small businesses have sparked recoveries in the past, and with the proper tools, will do it again in the future.

I strongly urge and support H.R. 2352. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I now yield such time as he may consume to the ranking member of the Finance and Tax Committee, Mr. BUCHANAN from Florida.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I want to thank the chairwoman and the ranking member for including my legislation, the bill to modernize SBA's SCORE Program, into the larger bill before us today.

For years, SCORE Program has been providing entrepreneurs with free, confidential and valuable small business advice. Nationwide, SCORE has 389 chapters throughout the United States, nearly 11,000 volunteers.

Locally, I know it has had a huge impact on our small business community. They do a lot to help them, especially with small business planning, which is critical to starting any kind of business today.

Small business creates 70 percent of all the new jobs, not only in our market, but throughout Florida. Their success is vital to our economy, and we need to do everything we can to ensure their success. And this bill helps that.

My legislation will help ensure that qualified SCORE volunteers are available to provide one-on-one advice and counsel to small business owners in Florida and across the country.

Again, I want to thank the chairwoman and the ranking member for giving me this opportunity today.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER).

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a cosponsor and strong supporter of the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. And I want to thank the chairwoman, the ranking member and the subcommittee chair and Republican ranking member on the subcommittee for this bipartisan effort.

A strong small business community is critical to rebuilding our economy, to create the good-paying jobs that stay here in the United States. However, as a small business owner myself, I know firsthand that America's entrepreneurs often need assistance, wheth-

er it be accessing capital, procuring contracts or marketing their firms.

Entrepreneurial development programs have a proven track record of successfully providing businesses with this type of assistance. However, they have not been modernized in over a decade to meet today's small business needs. This is especially important for groups that are underrepresented in the business world, such as women, minorities, and veterans.

For example, the Veterans Business Outreach Program is designed to provide entrepreneurial development services, such as business training, counseling, mentoring, and referrals for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business.

It was my amendment in the Small Business Committee that will allow members of the National Guard and Reserve to also access this important program. As we have seen from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, these brave men and women can be deployed for months and then struggle when they return home to their business or job.

The Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act improves current programs. In this case, it gives all those who have bravely served our country in uniform the tools to start and grow their own business.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today because we understand that small business is critical, not only to creating jobs, but to driving our Nation's economic recovery. Small business development and growth is crucial to aiding our economic recovery in this Nation.

For this reason, in the middle of National Small Business Week, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I now yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Oklahoma (Ms. FALLIN).

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Chairman, I too would like to offer my support for H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act, and to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member GRAVES for their work in crafting a bipartisan piece of legislation that incorporates several important pieces of small business legislation and work.

Especially at a time when our national economy is struggling, and the American people have asked us here in Congress to focus on economic recovery, this bill will provide important job creation opportunities for our Nation's entrepreneurs.

And I'd especially like to thank our chairwoman and our ranking member for allowing a piece of my legislation, H.R. 1838, the SBA Women's Business Centers Improvement Act, to be included in the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act. This section of legislation adds accountability and transparency to the distribution of funding to Women's Business Centers to offer temporary assistance rather

than permanent dependency on the Federal Government.

The Women's Business Centers are an important part of the grant programs that are funded by the Small Business Administration. Today, Women's Business Centers all across the country are providing women entrepreneurs with much-needed technical assistance in starting and operating their own small businesses.

In the mid-1990s, the Federal Government began awarding grants to Women's Business Centers that were operating as nonprofit organizations in conjunction with institutions of higher learning. Originally these grants were intended to be awarded to business centers in their first 5 years, with the understanding that after this 5-year period had ended, the center would be financially self-sustaining. Although many of the Women's Business Centers did meet this goal, some did not, and for a variety of reasons. And, as a result, a greater percentage of the funding for this program has been consumed by the operating costs of the potentially unviable centers, rather than the intended purpose of establishing new women's business centers. The result has been a drag upon the system, and viable business centers that are not truly serving an unmet need in their community were allowed to continue on. And this has jeopardized the effectiveness and the viability of this entire program.

The SBA Women's Business Programs Act restores its original priorities held by the Federal Government when this program was originally enacted. By offering a three-tiered system of funding and lowered caps on spending for older business centers, we can assure a balanced percentage of the funding issues to support both new and existing business centers.

Modernizing the SBA entrepreneurial development programs will ensure small businesses have the opportunity to help lead our Nation out of this recession and into economic prosperity. The Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act is a huge step in the right direction and provides much-needed help to lend a helping hand to our Nation's small businesses.

And once again, in closing, I just would like to commend the chairwoman and the ranking member for working together in a bipartisan way to craft a piece of legislation that encompasses so many areas that will help our small businesses and our Nation, especially during the National Small Business Recognition Week.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to inquire how much time is left on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina has 19½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Missouri has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHULER. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE).

Mr. NYE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2352, the Job Cre-

ation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. And I want to thank our chairwoman and our ranking member. I appreciate all your efforts to move this comprehensive package of legislation forward and especially want to thank our chairwoman for working with me on title I of the bill, the Veterans Business Centers Act, which will help our Nation's veteran entrepreneurs.

□ 1500

In my district, we have the second largest concentration of veterans of any congressional district in the country. My district is home to Norfolk Naval Base, the largest naval base in the world. In our community, there are countless veteran-owned businesses that are vital to the local economy.

The measure that we are considering today will give veteran entrepreneurs everywhere the support they need to launch new enterprises and to grow existing businesses. The cornerstone of this effort will be a new nationwide network of services dedicated to veteran entrepreneurs, called Veterans Business Centers, the first nationwide business assistance program for veterans. Establishing this network will provide veterans with dedicated counseling and business training, with access to capital and to securing loans and credit and with help in navigating the procurement process.

We know already, when they have access to the right tools, veterans can succeed in business, and I believe that we can build on what works and that we can expand access to these critical services. I strongly urge the passage of this bill.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I now yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK), who is also the ranking member on the Contracting and Technology Subcommittee.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act.

I, too, wish to extend my appreciation to Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, to Ranking Member GRAVES, and specifically to the bill's sponsor, Mr. SHULER, for including not only my language in H.R. 1845 but also the proposals of five other Republican members on our committee. This is truly a bipartisan bill, and I think you'll see that the votes reflect it.

I introduced H.R. 1845, which seeks to modernize the Small Business Development Centers. Small Business Development Centers are commonly referred to as SBDCs. They provide emerging entrepreneurs with the tools they need to successfully take their business concepts into reality and also to provide existing small business owners with important financial and budgeting consulting to assist in long-term growth and management. Investments in the SBDC network provide a truly cost-effective way to help stimulate our economy while also enhancing American

companies and our competitiveness around the world.

With all of the talk today about how we should stimulate growth and create long-term economic growth here in our country, we shouldn't look any further than where half of all Americans get their paychecks—with small business.

The facts speak for themselves. A new business is opened by a Small Business Development Center client every 41 minutes. A new job is created in the United States by a Small Business Development Center client every 7 minutes. In the year 2007, SBDC clients created over 70,000 new full-time jobs. With the current economic condition, more and more small business owners are visiting their SBDCs, seeking the advice on how to best manage their resources during the economic downturn. The bill also works to make the money that we are appropriating to SBDCs more efficient, and it also rewards those who have better outcomes.

For these reasons and many more, I urge passage of this bill and the Small Business Development Center Modernization Act legislation that is included in it.

Mr. SHULER. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE).

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act. This important piece of legislation will modernize and expand key economic development programs within the Small Business Administration.

As just one example, section 1 of this legislation establishes the Veterans Business Center program. Now, as many of my colleagues know, this is a program that is near and dear to my heart. Last session, I introduced legislation that was signed into law to help expand business opportunities for veterans and Reservists. The bill we are debating today builds upon my legislation, and it provides a dedicated funding stream to help ensure that our veterans and Reservists are afforded every opportunity for economic success at home.

So it is for this and for many other reasons that I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER). He is a subcommittee ranking member. Along with Mr. SHULER, they were the cosponsors of the bill.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. SHULER) for his hard work in crafting this much needed small business legislation, and I would like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member GRAVES for their hard work and for allowing this thing to expeditiously go through the full committee.

Small business accounts for 70 percent of our Nation's jobs, and it provides an invaluable source of innovation to our economy. As we try to revive the slumping economy and put people back to work, wouldn't it only make sense to provide relief to our Nation's most productive job creators?

As a small business man myself, I am pleased to sponsor a bill that will assist the many small owners and employees throughout my district and the country. Two out of every three jobs are created by a small business, and like every recession before, small business will lead the way out of this recession into economic growth again. Rather than relying so heavily on the government to spend our way out of this recession, we need to focus on ensuring that our small businesses are able to utilize all of the resources already available.

This bill beefs up support services in key entrepreneurial development programs, making these programs more effective and responsive to the needs of small businesses and ensuring that existing programs are being used effectively and that duplicative government programs are done away with.

To be sure, an investment in entrepreneurial development programs yields strong returns. In 2008, the SBA entrepreneurial development programs helped to generate 73,000 new jobs and to bring in \$7.2 billion to the economy. Some economists have estimated that every dollar invested in these initiatives returns \$2.87 to our economy and helps these small businesses thrive.

Given that the biggest challenge facing small businesses right now is their ability to access credit, I am particularly pleased to support a bill that strengthens Small Business Development Centers, one-stop assistance centers for current and prospective small business owners, designed to assist small firms in securing capital and credit.

This bill moved promptly through the full committee and to the House floor. I am pleased with the bipartisan support this bill has received in the committee. I want to thank my colleagues for their careful and timely attention to the legislation that will give our small business owners the opportunity to grow and expand.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Chairman, again, I would like to commend Mr. LUETKEMEYER, the ranking member, for his hard work, for his dedication, and for his true leadership in a bipartisan way on the subcommittee.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, we have no further speakers. I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to lend my support for this measure, H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009, and to express my sin-

cere appreciation and thanks to Subcommittee Chair SHULER, to Subcommittee Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER, to Committee Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, and to Ranking Member GRAVES for their leadership on this bill, for their ability to work through regular order, and for encouraging debate and input from the members of the Small Business Committee, particularly Subcommittee Chair SHULER and Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER.

Coming from a long line of small business owners myself, I can attest to the many challenges that these entrepreneurs face on a daily basis. Never mind the challenges a person faces to get a business off the ground, once that business is running, it is often an uphill battle day after day to keep the doors open and the employees paid. During this time of economic downturn, there are many entrepreneurs throughout America who are facing start-up challenges who do not have the resources or the networks to provide the advice or the assistance that is required for them to be successful.

H.R. 2352 will provide entrepreneurs from all walks of life and geographic locations the ability to harness tools that would otherwise not be available to them. This bill provides a Veterans Business Center program within the SBA to provide entrepreneurial training and counseling to veterans. It utilizes technology to provide distance learning and peer-to-peer networking for those in rural and underserved areas. It enhances entrepreneurial programs for Native American populations, and it broadens the scope of the SBA's Women's Business Center.

During this time of economic downturn, we have the power to arm America's entrepreneurs with the tools to provide real stimulus for our economy and to get the country back to work. I certainly encourage my fellow colleagues to support H.R. 2352, a real smart government solution.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers if the ranking member is prepared to close.

Mr. GRAVES. I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of Mr. SHULER and Mr. LUETKEMEYER in putting together this bill. I would also like to commend the other members of the committee—Mr. NYE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. THOMPSON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. FALLIN, and particularly the ranking member, Mr. GRAVES—for all of their efforts and contributions in putting together this bipartisan product.

Entrepreneurs have much talent for job creation. In the last few months, much has been made of that ability and with good reason. As employment continues to climb, we need to be investing in the businesses that can put Americans back to work. The Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of

2009 will do just that. That is why this bill is supported by groups as diverse as the American Legion, the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, the International Franchise Association, the National Association for the Self-Employed, the National Black Chamber of Commerce, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Already, the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs help small firms do everything from draft business plans to accessing capital. These services have been an invaluable resource for countless entrepreneurs, and they have led to the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs. In fact, entrepreneurial development helped generate 73,000 new positions in 2008 alone.

Despite the program's inherent value, it is in sore need of modernization. Today, we are going to begin the process of turning it around. In doing so, we will ensure that small firms have the tools they need to spark a sustained recovery. What better time to reinforce the backbone of our economy than during Small Business Week. We can do more than celebrate our entrepreneurs. We can empower them and can help them play their unique role as an economic catalyst.

I will now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois as much time as she may consume.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Chairman, thank you, and thank you, Mr. SHULER, for the opportunity to speak.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act.

Consideration of this legislation couldn't have come at a more critical time. During an economic downturn, many people start their own businesses because they are faced with few other options. They've lost their jobs; they can't find new employment, and they need to feed their families. Yet it is the start-up businesses that are most at risk for failure. The legislation we are considering today will give entrepreneurs and new business owners the tools that they will need to succeed.

As a member of both the Small Business and Veterans' Affairs Committees, I am especially pleased that this bill creates a new Veterans Business Center program under the SBA. I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE) for his hard work on this section of the bill.

The Veterans Business Centers will provide essential training and counseling to veteran business owners, including assistance in seeking Federal contracting opportunities. The bill includes an amendment I offered in committee to make surviving spouses of Armed Forces members and veterans eligible for assistance from the Veterans Business Centers.

As we celebrate Memorial Day next week, I can hardly think of a more fitting way to honor our men and women

who have served in uniform and to honor their families. I especially thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member GRAVES and Mr. SHULER for their strong, bipartisan leadership on this legislation.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to show my support for the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights Act of 2009.

This bill is more important now than ever, because credit card practices have become a huge problem in our country.

Americans are saving less than they borrow on credit and the individual debt level is the highest it's been in decades.

Consumers should have as much information as possible when it comes to credit and finance policies and these policies should be easy to understand.

That is why I was an original cosponsor of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act, which among other things, includes provisions to protect consumers against: arbitrary interest rate increases, early pre-payment penalties, due date gimmicks, and excessive fees.

It also provides better general oversight of the credit card industry.

This bill passed out of the House of Representatives on April 30, 2009 with my support and I am pleased to see that the Senate sent this bill back with even stronger consumer protections and moved its implementation date up 3 months.

I look forward to voting in favor of this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

This is a chance for us to protect American consumers and rein in abusive credit card practices.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act, which overhauls the Small Business Administration's entrepreneurial development programs and creates new services geared toward veterans and Native Americans. This legislation builds on SBA changes made in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, and it provides relief for small businesses and consumers who have been greatly affected by the credit crunch.

Small businesses are the backbone of America, and they are especially important to Rhode Island's economy. Now more than ever, Congress must support the growth of America's small businesses and help stimulate the real engine of our Nation's economy. In Rhode Island, there are many businesses that are passed down from generation to generation, and it is so important that these successful businesses have access to the tools they need to weather this economic downturn.

H.R. 2352 modernizes the Small Business Development Center Program by focusing on entrepreneurial development, broadens the Women's Business Centers Program by increasing counseling and training facilities, establishes the Veterans Business Center Program, formally establishes the Office of Native American Affairs, and improves the Service Corps of Retired Executives, a mentoring resource program.

This bill also creates a grant program specifically designed to assist small firms in securing capital such as the new small business

lending generated under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. This measure also establishes a green entrepreneurial development program, which will provide classes and instruction on starting a business in the fields of energy efficiency or green technology. It will also create a procurement training program to help local small firms find suitable contracts and technical assistance on the federal procurement process.

American prosperity depends on the success of small businesses and the innovative spirit of the American people. I am committed to bringing relief to Main Street and to the small businesses that are struggling in our state, and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2352, The Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009.

The American spirit of entrepreneurship is one of the key values that have made our nation great. As a former small business owner, I believe it is essential that we nurture these ventures and increase opportunities for more Americans to start their own business. Small businesses employ millions of Americans, and help form the backbone of our economy. These small businesses play an even more important role in today's struggling economy.

H.R. 2352 takes several steps to bolster and expand opportunities for entrepreneurs. This bill modernizes the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) entrepreneurial development programs so that these businesses can survive the downturn and help move our economy forward by creating jobs. H.R. 2352 provides small businesses with new tools to address their changing needs by bolstering Small Business Development Centers across the country. H.R. 2352 also expands opportunities to our nation's veterans by authorizing \$10 million in FY 2011 and \$12 million in 2012. These funds will be used to increase outreach facilities across the country and establish specialized assistance programs targeted to veterans. H.R. 2352 also includes increased counseling and training initiatives designed to increase business opportunities for women.

I support efforts to foster the American spirit of entrepreneurship and I support The Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment is as follows:

H.R. 2352

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Veterans Business Center program.

Sec. 102. Reporting requirement for interagency task force.

TITLE II—EDUCATING AND NETWORKING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 201. Educating entrepreneurs through technology.

TITLE III—ENHANCING NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sec. 301. Office of Native American Affairs; Tribal Business Information Centers program.

Sec. 302. Small Business Development Center assistance to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

TITLE IV—BROADENING THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

Sec. 401. Notification of grants; publication of grant amounts.

Sec. 402. Communications.

Sec. 403. Funding.

Sec. 404. Performance and planning.

Sec. 405. National Women's Business Council.

TITLE V—SCORE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 501. Expansion of volunteer representation and benchmark reports.

Sec. 502. Mentoring and networking.

Sec. 503. Name of program changed to SCORE.

Sec. 504. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VI—EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sec. 601. Expanding entrepreneurship.

TITLE VII—MODERNIZING THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAM

Sec. 701. Small business development centers operational changes.

Sec. 702. Access to credit and capital.

Sec. 703. Procurement training and assistance.

Sec. 704. Green entrepreneurs training program.

Sec. 705. Main street stabilization.

Sec. 706. Prohibition on program income being used as matching funds.

Sec. 707. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

SEC. 101. VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f), by inserting "(other than subsections (g), (h), and (i))" after "this section"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(g) **VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall establish a Veterans Business Center program within the Administration to provide entrepreneurial training and counseling to veterans in accordance with this subsection.

"(2) **DIRECTOR.**—The Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Veterans Business Center program, who shall implement and oversee such program and who shall report directly to the Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development.

"(3) **DESIGNATION OF VETERANS BUSINESS CENTERS.**—The Director shall establish by regulation an application, review, and notification process to designate entities as veterans business centers for purposes of this section. The Director shall make publicly known the designation of an entity as a veterans business center and the award of a grant to such center under this subsection.

"(4) **FUNDING FOR VETERANS BUSINESS CENTERS.**—

"(A) **INITIAL GRANTS.**—The Director is authorized to make a grant (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as an 'initial grant') to each

veterans business center each year for not more than 5 years in the amount of \$150,000.

“(B) GROWTH FUNDING GRANTS.—After a veterans business center has received 5 years of initial grants under subparagraph (A), the Director is authorized to make a grant (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as a ‘growth funding grant’) to such center each year for not more than 3 years in the amount of \$100,000. After such center has received 3 years of growth funding grants, the Director shall require such center to meet performance benchmarks established by the Director to be eligible for growth funding grants in subsequent years.

“(5) CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each veterans business center receiving a grant under this subsection shall use the funds primarily on veteran entrepreneurial development, counseling of veteran-owned small businesses through one-on-one instruction and classes, and providing government procurement assistance to veterans.

“(6) MATCHING FUNDS.—Each veterans business center receiving a grant under this subsection shall be required to provide a non-Federal match of 50 percent of the Federal funds such center receives under this subsection. The Director may issue to a veterans business center, upon request, a waiver from all or a portion of such matching requirement upon a determination of hardship.

“(7) TARGETED AREAS.—The Director shall give priority to applications for designations and grants under this subsection that will establish a veterans business center in a geographic area, as determined by the Director, that is not currently served by a veterans business center and in which—

“(A) the population of veterans exceeds the national median of such measure; or

“(B) the population of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom exceeds the national median of such measure.

“(8) TRAINING PROGRAM.—The Director shall develop and implement, directly or by contract, an annual training program for the staff and personnel of designated veterans business centers to provide education, support, and information on best practices with respect to the establishment and operation of such centers. The Director shall develop such training program in consultation with veterans business centers, the interagency task force established under subsection (c), and veterans service organizations.

“(9) INCLUSION OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN PROGRAM.—Upon the date of the enactment of this subsection, each Veterans Business Outreach Center established by the Administrator under the authority of section 8(b)(17) and each center that received funds during fiscal year 2006 from the National Veterans Business Development Corporation established under section 33 and that remains in operation shall be treated as designated as a veterans business center for purposes of this subsection and shall be eligible for grants under this subsection.

“(10) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

“(h) ADDITIONAL GRANTS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS BUSINESS CENTERS.—

“(1) ACCESS TO CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Veterans Business Center program shall establish a grant program under which the Director is authorized to make, to veterans business centers designated under subsection (g), grants for the following:

“(i) Developing specialized programs to assist veteran-owned small businesses to secure capital and repair damaged credit.

“(ii) Providing informational seminars on securing loans to veteran-owned small businesses.

“(iii) Providing one-on-one counseling to veteran-owned small businesses to improve the financial presentations of such businesses to lenders.

“(iv) Facilitating the access of veteran-owned small businesses to both traditional and non-traditional financing sources.

“(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not award a veterans business center more than \$75,000 in grants under this paragraph.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

“(2) PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a grant program under which the Director is authorized to make, to veterans business centers designated under subsection (g), grants for the following:

“(i) Assisting veteran-owned small businesses to identify contracts that are suitable to such businesses.

“(ii) Preparing veteran-owned small businesses to be ready as subcontractors and prime contractors for contracts made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5) through training and business advisement, particularly with respect to the construction trades.

“(iii) Providing veteran-owned small businesses technical assistance with respect to the Federal procurement process, including assisting such businesses to comply with Federal regulations and bonding requirements.

“(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not award a veterans business center more than \$75,000 in grants under this paragraph.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

“(3) SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a grant program under which the Director is authorized to make, to veterans business centers designated under subsection (g), grants for the following:

“(i) Developing outreach programs for service-disabled veterans with respect to the benefits of self-employment.

“(ii) Providing tailored training to service-disabled veterans with respect to business plan development, marketing, budgeting, accounting, and merchandising.

“(iii) Assisting service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses to locate and secure business opportunities.

“(B) AWARD SIZE.—The Director may not award a veterans business center more than \$75,000 in grants under this paragraph.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

“(i) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Veterans Business Center program is authorized to carry out an event, once every two years, for the purpose of providing networking opportunities, outreach, education, training, and support to veterans business centers funded under this section, veteran-owned small businesses, veterans service organizations, and other entities as determined appropriate for inclusion by the Director.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$450,000 for fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

“(j) INCLUSION OF SURVIVING SPOUSES.—For purposes of subsections (g), (h), and (i) the following apply:

“(1) The term ‘veteran’ includes a surviving spouse of the following:

“(A) A member of the Armed Forces, including a reserve component thereof.

“(B) A veteran.

“(2) The term ‘veteran-owned small business’ includes a small business owned by a surviving spouse of the following:

“(A) A member of the Armed Forces, including a reserve component thereof.

“(B) A veteran.

“(k) INCLUSION OF RESERVE COMPONENTS.—For purposes of subsections (g), (h), and (i) the following apply:

“(1) The term ‘veteran’ includes a member of the reserve components of the armed forces as specified in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) The term ‘veteran-owned small business’ includes a small business owned by a member of the reserve components of the armed forces as specified in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code.”

SEC. 102. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE.

Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to Congress biannually a report on the appointments made to and activities of the task force.”

TITLE II—EDUCATING AND NETWORKING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH TODAY’S TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 201. EDUCATING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44 as section 46 and by inserting the following new section after section 43:

“SEC. 44. EDUCATING AND NETWORKING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY.

“(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide high-quality distance learning and opportunities for the exchange of peer-to-peer technical assistance through online networking to potential and existing entrepreneurs through the use of technology.

“(b) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term ‘qualified third-party vendor’ means an entity with experience in distance learning content or communications technology, or both, with the ability to utilize on-line, satellite, video-on-demand, and connected community-based organizations to distribute and conduct distance learning and establish an online network for use by potential and existing entrepreneurs to facilitate the exchange of peer-to-peer technical assistance related to entrepreneurship, credit management, financial literacy, and Federal small business development programs.

“(c) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall contract with qualified third-party vendors for entrepreneurial training content, the development of communications technology that can distribute content under this section throughout the United States, and the establishment of a nationwide, online network for the exchange of peer-to-peer technical assistance. The Administrator shall contract with at least 2 qualified third-party vendors to develop content.

“(d) CONTENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that the content referred to in subsection (c) is timely and relevant to entrepreneurial development and can be successfully communicated remotely to an audience through the use of technology. The Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, promote content that makes use of technologies that allow for remote interaction by the content provider with an audience. The Administrator shall ensure that the content is catalogued and accessible to small businesses on-line or through other remote technologies.

“(e) COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The Administrator shall ensure that the communications technology referred to in subsection (c) is able to distribute content throughout all 50 States and the territories of the United States to small business concerns, home-based businesses, Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, Veterans Business Centers, and the Small Business Administration and network entrepreneurs throughout all 50 States and the territories of the United States to allow for

peer-to-peer learning through the creation of a location online that allows entrepreneurs and small business owners the opportunity to exchange technical assistance through the sharing of information. To the extent possible, the qualified third-party vendor should deliver the content and facilitate the networking using broadband technology.

“(f) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—The Administrator shall submit a report to Congress 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section containing an analysis of the Small Business Administration’s progress in implementing this section. The Administrator shall submit a report to Congress one year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter containing the number of presentations made under this section, the number of small businesses served under this section, the extent to which this section resulted in the establishment of new businesses, and feedback on the usefulness of this medium in presenting entrepreneurial education and facilitating the exchange of peer-to-peer technical assistance throughout the United States.

“(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”

TITLE III—ENHANCING NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SEC. 301. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS; TRIBAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTERS PROGRAM.

(a) **ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.**—Section 4(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “five Associate Administrators” and inserting “six Associate Administrators”; and

(2) by inserting after “vested in the Administration.” the following: “One such Associate Administrator shall be the Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs, who shall administer the Office of Native American Affairs established under section 45.”

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 44, as added by section 201 of this Act, the following:

“SEC. 45. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND TRIBAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTERS PROGRAM.

“(a) **OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Administration an Office of Native American Affairs (hereinafter referred to in this subsection as the ‘Office’).

“(2) **ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.**—The Office shall be administered by an Associate Administrator appointed under section 4(b)(1).

“(3) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Office shall have the following responsibilities:

“(A) Developing and implementing tools and strategies to increase Native American entrepreneurship.

“(B) Expanding the access of Native American entrepreneurs to business training, capital, and Federal small business contracts.

“(C) Expanding outreach to Native American communities and aggressively marketing entrepreneurial development services to such communities.

“(D) Representing the Administration with respect to Native American economic development matters.

“(4) **COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT FUNCTION.**—The Office shall provide oversight with respect to and assist the implementation of all Administration initiatives relating to Native American entrepreneurial development.

“(5) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

“(b) **TRIBAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTERS PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator is authorized to operate, alone or in coordination with other Federal departments and agencies, a Tribal Business Information Centers program that provides Native American populations with business training and entrepreneurial development assistance.

“(2) **DESIGNATION OF CENTERS.**—The Administrator shall designate entities as centers under the Tribal Business Information Centers program.

“(3) **ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT.**—The Administrator may contribute agency personnel and resources to the centers designated under paragraph (2) to carry out this subsection.

“(4) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Administrator is authorized to make grants of not more than \$300,000 to centers designated under paragraph (2) for the purpose of providing Native Americans the following:

“(A) Business workshops.

“(B) Individualized business counseling.

“(C) Entrepreneurial development training.

“(D) Access to computer technology and other resources to start or expand a business.

“(5) **REGULATIONS.**—The Administrator shall by regulation establish a process for designating centers under paragraph (2) and making the grants authorized under paragraph (4).

“(6) **DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATOR.**—In this subsection, the term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator, acting through the Associate Administrator administering the Office of Native American Affairs.

“(7) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

“(c) **DEFINITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN.**—The term ‘Native American’ means an Indian tribe member, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian as such are defined in section 21(a)(8) of this Act.”

SEC. 302. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 21(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) **ADDITIONAL GRANT TO ASSIST INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any applicant in an eligible State that is funded by the Administration as a Small Business Development Center may apply for an additional grant to be used solely to provide services described in subsection (c)(3) to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

“(B) **ELIGIBLE STATES.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), an eligible State is a State that has a combined population of Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians that comprises at least 1 percent of the State’s total population, as shown by the latest available census.

“(C) **GRANT APPLICATIONS.**—An applicant for a grant under subparagraph (A) shall submit to the Administration an application that is in such form as the Administration may require. The application shall include information regarding the applicant’s goals and objectives for the services to be provided using the grant, including—

“(i) the capability of the applicant to provide training and services to a representative number of Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;

“(ii) the location of the Small Business Development Center site proposed by the applicant;

“(iii) the required amount of grant funding needed by the applicant to implement the program; and

“(iv) the extent to which the applicant has consulted with local tribal councils.

“(D) **APPLICABILITY OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS.**—An applicant for a grant under subparagraph (A) shall comply with all of the requirements of this section, except that the matching funds requirements under paragraph (4)(A) shall not apply.

“(E) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.**—No applicant may receive more than \$300,000 in grants under this paragraph for any fiscal year.

“(F) **REGULATIONS.**—After providing notice and an opportunity for comment and after consulting with the Association recognized by the Administration pursuant to paragraph (3)(A) (but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph), the Administration shall issue final regulations to carry out this paragraph, including regulations that establish—

“(i) standards relating to educational, technical, and support services to be provided by Small Business Development Centers receiving assistance under this paragraph; and

“(ii) standards relating to any work plan that the Administration may require a Small Business Development Center receiving assistance under this paragraph to develop.

“(G) **ADVICE OF LOCAL TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—A Small Business Development Center receiving a grant under this paragraph shall request the advice of a tribal organization on how best to provide assistance to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance.

“(H) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph, the following definitions apply:

“(i) **INDIAN LANDS.**—The term ‘Indian lands’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian country’ in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code, the meaning given the term ‘Indian reservation’ in section 151.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph), and the meaning given the term ‘reservation’ in section 4 of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1903).

“(ii) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term ‘Indian tribe’ means any band, nation, or organized group or community of Indians located in the contiguous United States, and the Metlakatla Indian Community, whose members are recognized as eligible for the services provided to Indians by the Secretary of the Interior because of their status as Indians.

“(iii) **INDIAN TRIBE MEMBER.**—The term ‘Indian tribe member’ means a member of an Indian tribe (other than an Alaska Native).

“(iv) **ALASKA NATIVE.**—The term ‘Alaska Native’ has the meaning given the term ‘Native’ in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b)).

“(v) **NATIVE HAWAIIAN.**—The term ‘Native Hawaiian’ means any individual who is—

“(I) a citizen of the United States; and

“(II) a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii.

“(vi) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term ‘tribal organization’ has the meaning given that term in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l)).

“(I) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

“(J) **FUNDING LIMITATIONS.**—

“(i) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.**—Funding under this paragraph shall be in addition to the dollar program limitations specified in paragraph (4).

“(ii) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—The Administration may carry out this paragraph only with amounts appropriated in advance specifically to carry out this paragraph.”

TITLE IV—BROADENING THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM

SEC. 401. NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF GRANT AMOUNTS.

Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall disburse funds to a women’s business center not later than one month after the center’s application is approved under this section. At the end of each fiscal year the Administrator (acting through the Office of Women’s Business ownership) shall publish on the Administration’s website a report setting forth the total amount of the grants made under this Act to each women’s business center in the fiscal year for which the report is issued, the total amount of such grants made in each prior fiscal year to each such center, and the total amount of private matching funds provided by each such center over the lifetime of the center.”.

SEC. 402. COMMUNICATIONS.

Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(p) COMMUNICATIONS.—The Administrator shall establish, by rule, a standardized process to communicate with women’s business centers regarding program administration matters, including reimbursement, regulatory matters, and programmatic changes. The Administrator shall notify each women’s business center of the opportunity for notice and comment on the proposed rule.”.

SEC. 403. FUNDING.

(a) FORMULA.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide financial assistance to private nonprofit organizations to conduct projects for the benefit of small business concerns owned and controlled by women. The projects shall provide—

“(A) financial assistance, including training and counseling in how to apply for and secure business credit and investment capital, preparing and presenting financial statements, and managing cash flow and other financial operations of a business concern;

“(B) management assistance, including training and counseling in how to plan, organize, staff, direct, and control each major activity and function of a small business concern; and

“(C) marketing assistance, including training and counseling in identifying and segmenting domestic and international market opportunities, preparing and executing marketing plans, developing pricing strategies, locating contract opportunities, negotiating contracts, and utilizing varying public relations and advertising techniques.

“(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide assistance under paragraph (1) in 3 tiers of assistance as follows:

“(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-year project in a situation where a project has not previously been conducted. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$150,000 per year.

“(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier project is being completed. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$100,000 per year.

“(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier project is being completed. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants shall be renewable subject to established eligibility criteria as well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

“(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available for assistance under this subsection, the Administrator shall allocate—

“(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier projects under paragraph (2)(A);

“(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(C) the remainder for third-tier projects under paragraph (2)(C).

“(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the community and on the performance of the applicant. The benchmarks shall include—

“(A) the total number of women served by the project;

“(B) the proportion of low income women and socio-economic distribution of clients served by the project;

“(C) the proportion of individuals in the community that are socially or economically disadvantaged (based on median income);

“(D) the future fund-raising and service coordination plans;

“(E) the diversity of services provided; and

“(F) geographic distribution within and across the 10 regions of the Small Business Administration.”.

(b) MATCHING.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)(1)) are amended to read as follows:

“(A) For the first and second years of the project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.

“(B) Each year after the second year of the project—

“(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar; or

“(ii) if the center is in a community at least 50 percent of the population of which is below the median income for the State or United States territory in which the center is located, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by inserting the following new subsection after subsection (e):

“(f) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for purposes of grants under section 29 to women’s business centers not more than \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 and not more than \$22,000,000 in fiscal year 2011.”.

SEC. 404. PERFORMANCE AND PLANNING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29(h)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(h)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting the following new subparagraphs after subparagraph (A):

“(B) establish performance measures, taking into account the demographic differences of populations served by women’s business centers, which measures shall include—

“(i) outcome-based measures of the amount of job creation or economic activity generated in the local community as a result of efforts made and services provided by each women’s business center, and

“(ii) service-based measures of the amount of services provided to individuals and small business concerns served by each women’s business center;

“(C) require each women’s business center to submit an annual plan for the next year that includes the center’s funding sources and amounts, strategies for increasing outreach to women-owned businesses, strategies for increasing job growth in the community, and other content as determined by the Administrator; and”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 29(h)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(h)(1)), as amended, is further amended by adding the following at the end thereof:

“The Administrator’s evaluation of each women’s business center as required by this sub-

section shall be in part based on the performance measures under subparagraphs (B) and (C). These measures and the Administrator’s evaluations thereof shall be made publicly available.”.

SEC. 405. NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL.

The Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 409(a) (15 U.S.C. 7109(a)), by adding the following at the end thereof: “Such studies shall include a study on the impact of the 2008–2009 financial markets crisis on women-owned businesses, and a study of the use of the Small Business Administration’s programs by women-owned businesses.”.

(2) In section 410(a) (15 U.S.C. 7110(a)), by striking “2001 through 2003” and insert “2010 and 2011”.

TITLE V—SCORE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 501. EXPANSION OF VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATION AND BENCHMARK REPORTS.

(a) EXPANSION OF VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATION.—Section 8(b)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(i)” after “(B)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) The Administrator shall ensure that SCORE, established under this subparagraph, carries out a plan to increase the proportion of mentors who are from socially or economically disadvantaged backgrounds and, on an annual basis, reports to the Administrator on the implementation of this subparagraph.”.

(b) BENCHMARK REPORTS.—Section 8(b)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) The Administrator shall ensure that SCORE, established under this subparagraph, establishes benchmarks for use in evaluating the performance of its activities and the performance of its volunteers. The benchmarks shall include benchmarks relating to the demographic characteristics and the geographic characteristics of persons assisted by SCORE, benchmarks relating to the hours spent mentoring by volunteers, and benchmarks relating to the performance of the persons assisted by SCORE. SCORE shall report, on an annual basis, to the Administrator the extent to which the benchmarks established under this clause are being attained.”.

SEC. 502. MENTORING AND NETWORKING.

Section 8(b)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) The Administrator shall ensure that SCORE, established under this subparagraph, establishes a mentoring program for small business concerns that provides one-on-one advice to small business concerns from qualified counselors. For purposes of this clause, qualified counselors are counselors with at least 10 years experience in the industry sector or area of responsibility of the small business concern seeking advice.

“(v) The Administrator shall carry out a networking program through SCORE, established under this subparagraph, that provides small business concerns with the opportunity to make business contacts in their industry or geographic region.”.

SEC. 503. NAME OF PROGRAM CHANGED TO SCORE.

(a) NAME CHANGE.—The Small Business Act is amended as follows:

(1) In section 8(b)(1)(B) (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)), by striking “Executives (SCORE)” and inserting “Executives (in this Act referred to as ‘SCORE’)”.

(2) In section 7(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII) (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(3)(A)(i)(VIII)), by striking “the Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE”.

(3) In section 20 (15 U.S.C. 631 note)—

(A) in subsection (d)(1)(E), by striking “the Service Corps of Retired Executives program” and inserting “SCORE”; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1)(E), by striking “the Service Corps of Retired Executives program” and inserting “SCORE”.

(4) In section 33(b)(2) (15 U.S.C. 657c(b)(2)), by striking “Service Corps of Retired Executives” and inserting “SCORE”.

(b) **ELIMINATION OF ACE.**—Section 8(b)(1)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)), as amended, is further amended by striking “and an Active Corps of Executive (ACE)”.

SEC. 504. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note), as amended by section 403(c) of this Act, is further amended by inserting the following new subsection after subsection (f):

“(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCORE.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$7,000,000 for SCORE under section 8(b)(1) for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”.

TITLE VI—EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SEC. 601. EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Section 4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **MANAGEMENT AND DIRECTION.**—

“(1) **PLAN FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION STRATEGY.**—The Administrator shall develop and submit to Congress a plan, in consultation with a representative from each of the agency’s entrepreneurial development programs, for using the Small Business Administration’s entrepreneurial development programs as a catalyst for job creation for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. The plan shall include the Administration’s plan for drawing on existing programs, including Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, SCORE, Veterans Business Centers, Native American Outreach, and other appropriate programs. The Administrator shall identify a strategy for each Administration region to create or retain jobs through Administration programs. The Administrator shall identify, in consultation with appropriate personnel from entrepreneurial development programs, performance measures and criteria, including job creation, job retention, and job retraining goals, to evaluate the success of the Administration’s actions regarding these efforts.

“(2) **DATA COLLECTION PROCESS.**—The Administrator shall, after notice and opportunity for comment, promulgate a rule to develop and implement a consistent data collection process to cover all entrepreneurial development programs. Such data collection process shall include data relating to job creation, performance, and any other data determined appropriate by the Administrator with respect to the Administration’s entrepreneurial development programs.

“(3) **COORDINATION AND ALIGNMENT OF SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.**—The Administrator shall submit annually to Congress, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, a report on opportunities to foster coordination, limit duplication, and improve program delivery for Federal entrepreneurial development programs.

“(4) **DATABASE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—The Administrator shall, after a period of 60 days for public comment, establish a database of providers of entrepreneurial development services and, make such database available through the Administration’s Web site. The database shall be searchable by industry, geography, and service required.

“(5) **COMMUNITY SPECIALIST.**—The Administrator shall designate not less than one staff member in each Administration district office as a community specialist who has as their full-time responsibility working with local entrepreneurial development service providers to increase coordination with Federal resources. The Administrator shall develop benchmarks for measuring the performance of community specialists under this subsection.

“(6) **ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PORTAL.**—The Administrator shall publish a design for a Web-based portal to provide comprehensive information on the Administration’s entrepreneurial development programs. After a period of 60 days for public comment, the Administrator shall establish such portal and—

“(A) integrate under one Web portal, Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, SCORE, Veterans Business Centers, the Administration’s distance learning program, and other programs as appropriate;

“(B) revise the Administration’s primary Web site so that the Web portal described in subparagraph (A) is available as a link on the main Web page of the Web site;

“(C) increase consumer-oriented content on the Administration’s Web site and focus on promoting access to business solutions, including marketing, financing, and human resources planning;

“(D) establish relevant Web content aggregated by industry segment, stage of business development, level of need, and include referral links to appropriate Administration services, including financing, training and counseling, and procurement assistance; and

“(E) provide style guidelines and links for visitors to the Administration’s Web site to be able to comment on and evaluate the materials in terms of their usefulness.

“(7) **PILOT PROGRAMS.**—The Administrator may not conduct any pilot program for a period of greater than 3 years if the program conflicts with, or uses the resources of, any of the entrepreneurial development programs authorized under section 8(b)(1)(B), 21, 29, 32, or any other provision of this Act.”.

TITLE VII—MODERNIZING THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAM

SEC. 701. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS OPERATIONAL CHANGES.

(a) **ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.**—Section 21(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(1)) is amended as follows:

(1) In the proviso, by inserting before “institution” the following: “accredited”.

(2) In the sentence beginning “The Administration shall”, by inserting before “institutions” the following: “accredited”.

(3) By adding at the end the following new sentence: “In this paragraph, the term ‘accredited institution of higher education’ means an institution that is accredited as described in section 101(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)(5)).”.

(b) **PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS.**—Section 21(a)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting before “agreed” the following: “mutually”.

(c) **CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.**—Section 21(a)(3)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting after “uniform negotiated” the following: “mutually agreed to”.

(d) **SBDC HIRING.**—Section 21(c)(2)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting after “full-time staff” the following: “, the hiring of which shall be at the sole discretion of the center without the need for input or approval from any officer or employee of the Administration”.

(e) **CONTENT OF CONSULTATIONS.**—Section 21(a)(7)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(7)(A)) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by inserting after “under this section” the following: “, or the content of any consultation with such an individual or small business concern,”.

(f) **AMOUNTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—Section 21(a)(4)(C)(v)(I) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(v)(I)) is amended to read as follows:

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section,

not more than \$500,000 may be used by the Administration to pay expenses enumerated in subparagraphs (B) through (D) of section 20(a)(1).”.

(g) **NON-MATCHING PORTABILITY GRANTS.**—Section 21(a)(4)(C)(viii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(viii)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In the event of a disaster, the dollar limitation in the preceding sentence shall not apply.”.

(h) **DISTRIBUTION TO SBDCs.**—Section 21(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) **LIMITATION ON DISTRIBUTION TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the Administration shall not distribute funds to a Small Business Development Center if the State in which the Small Business Development Center is located is served by more than one Small Business Development Center.

“(B) **UNAVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.**—The Administration may distribute funds to a maximum of 2 Small Business Development Centers in any State if no applicant has applied to serve the entire State.

“(C) **GRANDFATHER CLAUSE.**—The limitations in this paragraph shall not apply to any State in which more than one Small Business Development Center received funding prior to January 1, 2007.

“(D) **DEFINITION.**—For the purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘Small Business Development Center’ means the entity selected by the Administration to receive funds pursuant to the funding formula set forth in subsection (a)(4), without regard to the number of sites for service delivery such entity establishes or funds.”.

(i) **WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS.**—Section 21(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(1)), as amended, is further amended—

(1) by striking “and women’s business centers operating pursuant to section 29”; and

(2) by striking “or a women’s business center operating pursuant to section 29”.

SEC. 702. ACCESS TO CREDIT AND CAPITAL.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) **ACCESS TO CREDIT AND CAPITAL PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall establish a grant program for small business development centers in accordance with this subsection. To be eligible for the program, a small business development center must be in good standing and comply with the other requirements of this section. Funds made available through the program shall be used to—

“(A) develop specialized programs to assist local small business concerns in securing capital and repairing damaged credit;

“(B) provide informational seminars on securing credit and loans;

“(C) provide one-on-one counseling with potential borrowers to improve financial presentations to lenders; and

“(D) facilitate borrowers’ access to non-traditional financing sources, as well as traditional lending sources.

“(2) **AWARD SIZE LIMIT.**—The Administration may not award an entity more than \$300,000 in grant funds under this subsection.

“(3) **AUTHORITY.**—Subject to amounts approved in advance in appropriations Acts and separate from amounts approved to carry out the program established in subsection (a)(1), the Administration may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to carry out this subsection.

“(4) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,500,000 for the purposes of carrying out this subsection for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”.

SEC. 703. PROCUREMENT TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(p) PROCUREMENT TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall establish a grant program for small business development centers in accordance with this subsection. To be eligible for the program, a small business development center must be in good standing and comply with the other requirements of this section. Funds made available through the program shall be used to—

“(A) work with local agencies to identify contracts that are suitable for local small business concerns;

“(B) prepare small businesses to be ready as subcontractors and prime contractors for contracts made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5) through training and business advisement, particularly in the construction trades; and

“(C) provide technical assistance regarding the Federal procurement process, including assisting small business concerns to comply with federal regulations and bonding requirements.

“(2) **AWARD SIZE LIMIT.**—The Administration may not award an entity more than \$300,000 in grant funds under this subsection.

“(3) **AUTHORITY.**—Subject to amounts approved in advance in appropriations Acts and separate from amounts approved to carry out the program established in subsection (a)(1), the Administration may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to carry out this subsection.

“(4) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,500,000 for the purposes of carrying out this subsection for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”

SEC. 704. GREEN ENTREPRENEURS TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(q) GREEN ENTREPRENEURS TRAINING PROGRAM.—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall establish a grant program for small business development centers in accordance with this subsection. To be eligible for the program, a small business development center must be in good standing and comply with the other requirements of this section. Funds made available through the program shall be used to—

“(A) provide education classes and one-on-one instruction in starting a business in the fields of energy efficiency, green technology, or clean technology;

“(B) coordinate such classes and instruction, to the extent practicable, with local community colleges and local professional trade associations; and

“(C) assist and provide technical counseling to individuals seeking to start a business in the fields of energy efficiency, green technology, or clean technology.

“(2) **AWARD SIZE LIMIT.**—The Administration may not award an entity more than \$300,000 in grant funds under this subsection.

“(3) **AUTHORITY.**—Subject to amounts approved in advance in appropriations Acts and separate from amounts approved to carry out the program established in subsection (a)(1), the Administration may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to carry out this subsection.

“(4) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,500,000 for the purposes of carrying out this subsection for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”

SEC. 705. MAIN STREET STABILIZATION.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended, is further amended by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:

“(r) **MAIN STREET STABILIZATION.—**

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall establish a grant program for small business development centers in accordance with this subsection. To be eligible for the program, a small business development center must be in good standing and comply with the other requirements of this section. Funds made available through the program shall be used to—

“(A) establish a statewide small business helpline within every State and United States territory to provide immediate expert information and assistance to small business concerns;

“(B) develop a portfolio of online survival and growth tools and resources that struggling small business concerns can utilize through the Internet;

“(C) develop business advisory capacity to provide expert consulting and education to assist small businesses at-risk of failure and to, in areas of high demand, shorten the response time of small business development centers, and, in rural areas, support added outreach in remote communities;

“(D) deploy additional resources to help specific industry sectors with a high presence of small business concerns, which shall be targeted toward clusters of small businesses with similar needs and build upon best practices from earlier assistance;

“(E) develop a formal listing of financing options for small business capital access; and

“(F) deliver services that help dislocated workers start new businesses.

“(2) **AWARD SIZE LIMIT.**—The Administration may not award an entity more than \$250,000 in grant funds under this subsection.

“(3) **AUTHORITY.**—Subject to amounts approved in advance in appropriations Acts and separate from amounts approved to carry out the program established in subsection (a)(1), the Administration may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to carry out this subsection.

“(4) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,500,000 for the purposes of carrying out this subsection for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”

SEC. 706. PROHIBITION ON PROGRAM INCOME BEING USED AS MATCHING FUNDS.

Section 21(a)(4)(B) (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(B)) is amended by inserting after “Federal program” the following: “and shall not include any funds obtained through the assessment of fees to small business clients”.

SEC. 707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note), as amended by sections 403(c) and 504 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Small Business Development Center Program under section 21 \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and \$160,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”

The CHAIR. No amendment to the committee amendment is in order except those printed in House Report 111–121. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

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AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 111–121.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

Page 9, beginning line 19, strike “with respect to the benefits of self-employment” and insert “to promote self-employment opportunities”.

Page 9, line 21, strike “tailored”.

Page 12, line 20, strike “high-quality”.

Page 14, line 9, insert after “Veterans Business Centers,” the following: “SCORE chapters.”

Page 16, line 21, strike “capital” and insert “financing”.

Page 16, line 24, strike “aggressively”.

Page 33, line 9, strike “the performance”.

Page 33, line 13, strike “relating” and insert “related”.

Page 36, beginning line 13, strike “as a catalyst for job creation for” and insert “to create jobs during”.

Page 36, line 14, strike “2009 and 2010” and insert “2010 and 2011”.

Page 7, after line 22 insert the following:

“(v) Providing one-on-one or group counseling to owners of small business concerns who are members of the reserve components of the armed forces, as specified in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code, to assist such owners to effectively prepare their small businesses for periods when such owners are deployed in support of a contingency operation.”

Page 6, line 22, strike “(10)” and insert “(11)”.

Page 6, after line 21 insert the following:

“(10) **RURAL AREAS.**—The Director shall submit annually to the Administrator a report on whether a sufficient percentage, as determined by the Director, of veterans in rural areas have adequate access to a veterans business center. If the Director submits a report under this paragraph that does not demonstrate that a sufficient percentage of veterans in rural areas have adequate access to a veterans business center, the Director shall give priority during the one year period following the date of the submission of such report to applications for designations and grants under this subsection that will establish veterans business centers in rural areas.”

Page 31, line 12, insert after “community” the following: “, strategies for increasing job placement of women in nontraditional occupations”.

Page 47, line 8, strike “and”.

Page 47, line 12, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 47, after line 12, insert the following new subparagraph:

“(D) provide services that assist low-income or dislocated workers to start businesses in the fields of energy efficiency, green technology, or clean technology.”

Page 47, line 4, insert after “clean technology” the following: “and in adapting a business to include such fields”.

Page 47, line 12, insert after “clean technology” the following: “and to individuals seeking to adapt a business to include such fields”.

Page 27, line 18, insert after “per year.” the following: “Projects receiving assistance under this subparagraph that possess the capacity to train existing or potential business owners in the fields of green technology, clean technology, or energy efficiency shall receive the maximum award under this subparagraph.”

Page 29, after line 5 insert the following:

“(E) the capacity of the project to train existing or potential business owners in the fields of green technology, clean technology, or energy efficiency;”

Page 29, line 6, strike “(E)” and insert “(F)”.

Page 29, line 7, strike “(F)” and insert “(G)”.

Page 32, after line 12 insert the following:
SEC. 406. APPLICANT EVALUATION CRITERIA.

Section 29(f) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) whether the applicant has the capacity to train existing or potential business owners in the fields of green technology, clean technology, or energy efficiency.”.

Page 5, line 13, after “hardship,” insert the following: “The Director may waive the matching funds requirement under this paragraph with respect to veterans business centers that serve communities with a per capita income less than 75 percent of the national per capita income and an unemployment rate at least 150 percent higher than the national average.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The manager’s amendment makes technical and conforming changes to the underlying legislation. It also incorporates several important amendments offered by Ms. MARKEY, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. POLIS, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. CARDOZA.

Across all areas of the legislation, these amendments sharpen the provisions, making them more effective in assisting our entrepreneurs. In particular, these amendments strengthen provisions dealing with veterans, rural entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs, and green technology.

I would like to thank my colleagues who contributed these changes and allowed them to be included in the manager’s amendment. Ultimately, we have a manager’s amendment that will improve this legislation and, more importantly, foster entrepreneurship and job growth.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim time on the gentlelady’s amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri is recognized for 10 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ’s amendment makes very much needed technical changes to the bill. In addition, the amendments clarify and strengthen the ability of Reservists and veterans to access the full range of SBA training and education programs. I fully support those changes.

The amendments also provide for more detailed criteria in evaluating applications for the Women’s Business Center. These additional criteria will

help the SBA select the worthiest of the applicant pool.

I have to say, Mr. Chairman, I know there’s a lot of thank-yous going around today, but I do sincerely want to thank the gentlelady, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, because she spent a lot of time working on issues facing rural America, and it’s kind of a hard area to understand in a lot of cases. And I appreciate that. I know a lot of people appreciate that. It doesn’t go unnoticed at all.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. MARKEY OF COLORADO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 111-121.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. As the designee for Mr. POLIS, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Ms. MARKEY of Colorado:

Page 27, line 1, insert after “concern” the following: “, including implementing cost saving energy techniques”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. MARKEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my colleagues’ amendment. I thank Representative SHULER, Representative VELÁZQUEZ, and members of the Small Business Committee and their staff for bringing forward this legislation that will promote entrepreneurship at a time when our Nation needs it most.

As a former small business owner, I know that starting a new business is an exciting experience. I know also that with the steep learning curve involved in managing and building a business, all too important details are left unattended. It is these details, however, that can determine whether a business will succeed or fail.

The educational and networking programs established by this bill will help small business owners attend to these details with the assistance of dedicated professionals.

Each community and each business presents a unique set of challenges and rewards. By creating specialized Small Business Development Centers, the modest funds we allocate in this bill will yield strong results through targeted counseling and training. This amendment simply adds training on reducing operating expenses through energy savings to the existing list of educational programs under this bill.

Entrepreneurs will greatly benefit from targeted training on energy use, a detail that represents 19 percent of the cost of running a small business. This high recurring cost can be inconsistent, unpredictable, and fluctuate seasonally.

High energy costs in periods of reduced revenue can be a frustrating challenge for a small business—but it’s also avoidable.

Many communities and utilities offer programs to help businesses reduce energy consumption and many also offer tax breaks and incentives to reduce energy use. Some of the incentive programs available include assistance in acquiring efficient office hardware and installing renewable energy projects, but they can also help business owners with simple solutions, such as installing fluorescent light bulbs, turning off unused equipment, and closing doors and windows.

However, as common sense as it may seem to turn off a light when not in use, during the intense activity of starting a new business, ordering inventory, and hiring new employees, the lack of attention paid to an open window can quickly morph from a harmless oversight to an expensive habit.

Mr. Chairman, I want to remind my colleagues that 19 percent paid for energy is 19 percent that is not being reinvested in the business. That is 19 percent less cushion a business owner has in the event of an economic downturn. Nineteen percent may seem small, but it could be smaller.

Energy, of course, is a necessary expense. Compared to good employees and quality projects, however, this expenditure yields marginal returns. There is a reason that our utility companies call us valued customers and don’t call us wise investors. Imagine if that 19 percent could be 9 percent.

To put it a better way, what if we could offer entrepreneurs an additional 10 percent capital? That 10 percent of additional resources can be invested in aspects of the operation that generate revenue.

The accumulated cost savings from moving the thermostat just a few degrees and reinvesting those funds into the business over time can be the difference between new supplies, expanding, or hiring a new employee.

This amendment strengthens our investment in small businesses by helping them with low-cost ways to improve their operations and increase their profits. The most exciting aspect of small business is the spirit of entrepreneurship, but finding creative solutions to reduce costs and save energy are possible only when business owners are made aware of the opportunities available to them.

This amendment, by simply creating awareness of energy-saving techniques and programs, will help small businesses thrive. Reducing energy consumption is not only smart environmental policy, it is sound economic policy.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment and this important bill. I once again thank Representative SHULER, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, and members of the Small Business Committee

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, while not opposed to the amendment, I ask to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, as our Nation transitions to a green economy, America's entrepreneurs are leading the way. Entrepreneurs make up 90 percent of the renewable energy sector that is harnessing wind and solar power, as well as producing biofuels. Small companies are also dominant in the field of energy efficiency, and they're finding better, cleaner ways to use existing fuel sources.

The renewable energy and efficiency sectors are leading a new way for growth. They are expected to account for one out of every four jobs by 2030. Small businesses are also instrumental in efforts promoting energy efficiency in both existing and new buildings.

The amendment offered by the gentlelady from Colorado will build on this role. It clarifies that Women's Business Centers may utilize their resources to promote cost-saving energy techniques. That is a valuable change to the legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I now yield to the gentleman from Missouri for any comments that he might have.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. MARKEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. PAULSEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 111-121.

Mr. PAULSEN. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. PAULSEN:
At the end of title I, insert the following new section:

SEC. 103. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VETERANS.

The Comptroller General shall carry out a study on the effects of this Act and the amendments made by this Act on small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and submit to Congress a report on the results of such study. Such report shall include the recommendations of the Comptroller General with respect to how this Act and the amendments made by this Act may

be implemented to more effectively serve small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. PAULSEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I'd like to thank the chair of the subcommittee. Mr. Chairman, growing small businesses must be a top priority in order to turn this economy around. Our military veterans that own businesses face their own unique challenges—and the government must ensure that the programs in place to assist these veterans are achieving their goals.

I recently took part in a Minnesota Defense Alliance event where I was briefed by several small-to-medium-sized businesses in Minnesota that do work related to defense issues. Many of these companies were veteran-owned.

One of the concerns that was raised by a few of the participants was that the programs currently available to veteran-owned businesses are not effective and do not meet their needs. Because of these concerns, I authored this amendment, which would require the GAO to study the effectiveness of the legislation in growing and assisting veteran-owned companies and businesses.

My amendment also requires the GAO to offer suggestions to Congress as to how we can better assist veteran-owned business.

The government needs to do a better job of spending our taxpayer money wisely. So one of the best things that we can do for any business right now is to increase the availability of capital for growth.

Small businesses have created two of every three net new jobs in the United States since the 1970s, and certainly all the members of the Small Business Committee know this. Small businesses are also responsible for roughly half of the privately generated GDP in the United States.

I support the underlying legislation, and I believe it will go a long way in assisting and growing small businesses at a time when our Nation's economy needs a boost. Specifically, I'm interested in the new grant program for Small Business Development Centers to develop programs which help local small firms in securing capital and repairing damaged credit.

I want to thank Mr. SHULER and the rest of the Small Business Committee for their work as well. I'm extremely pleased that this bill provides the assistance for veteran-owned business, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for this amendment and "yes" on the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, while not opposed to the amendment, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for offering this amendment. All of us on both sides of the aisle want to make sure that these programs meet the needs of our entrepreneurs. I think we're doing good work with this legislation. But, as with many government programs, we must ensure there is sufficient oversight.

It is important that we carefully monitor how taxpayer dollars are spent and what effect they're having. Most of all, we must be sure that these programs accomplish what Congress intended.

The amendment in question will provide this oversight. It requires the Government Accountability Office to report on the effectiveness of ED programs for veterans.

I welcome this additional oversight. If Congress is going to ensure veterans are receiving the help they need from the SBA, we must make sure these new programs are functioning correctly. I will encourage my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

Now I yield to the gentleman from Missouri for any comments that he may have.

Mr. GRAVES. I appreciate the gentlelady from New York yielding me time. Mr. Chairman, I think this is a great amendment, and I support it.

□ 1530

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. We are prepared to accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. We had one additional speaker, but I'm not sure if he's going to make it. So I just want to encourage support as well. I thank the gentlewoman for her support of the amendment and all the members of the Small Business Committee to truly help veteran-owned businesses grow and create jobs as well.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment offered by my friend from Minnesota. As a veteran I support the underlying goal of this legislation to create opportunities for veteran-operated small businesses.

It is important in this global economy to train and provide guidance in business administration for our veterans. Veteran Business Centers and grant assistance should expand the economic playing field for these businesses.

However, if the Congress authorizes these programs it is our duty to the taxpayer to oversee their progress. This amendment calls for the Government Accountability Office to study and report on the effectiveness of these programs. We need to ask the question: "Is money spent on veteran owned small businesses helping these businesses?" "How can these programs be improved?"

I look forward to having those answers and thank the Gentleman from Minnesota for offering this amendment. I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption and yield back.

Mr. PAULSEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BOCCIERI

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 111-121.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. BOCCIERI: Page 7, insert after line 22 the following:

“(v) Developing specialized programs to assist unemployed veterans to become entrepreneurs.”.

Page 10, line 21, insert after “Director.” the following: “Such event shall include education and training with respect to improving outreach to veterans in areas of high unemployment.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act. I want to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Congressman SHULER for their vision in this landmark piece of legislation that will help restore our economy to what it has always been.

My amendment does two things, Mr. Chair. It allows veterans centers to receive grants to develop specialized programs that assist unemployed veterans, reservists and surviving spouses by becoming entrepreneurs. And it requires a Veterans Development Summit to provide training for veterans centers to improve their outreach to veterans in areas of high unemployment.

I strongly support the underlying bill and its creation of the Veterans Business Center program. By expanding assistance and training to veteran entrepreneurs, we can increase the number of successful small businesses and, thereby, create jobs, taking these highly skilled, highly trained individuals and helping them. Providing them with the opportunity to create jobs and create businesses is the right way to go.

The purpose of my amendment is to ensure that we are targeting outreach to unemployed veterans, reservists and surviving spouses.

Let's go over a few facts, Mr. Chair. While the economy continues to be tough for all Americans, it seems that young veterans are among the hardest hit. One out of nine Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are now out of work, and the total number of unemployed veterans of the two wars roughly averages about 170,000. It is about the same number as U.S. troops deployed to those wars, according to the Department of

Labor. The 11.2 percent jobless rate for veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan rose 4 percentage points in the past year. That's significantly higher than the corresponding 8.8 percent for nonveterans in the same age group. On the battlefield, we pledge to leave no soldier behind. As a Nation, it should be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind, and that includes making sure that every veteran has a job when they return.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, while not opposed to the amendment, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his amendment. The legislation on the floor today places a high priority on helping veterans who wish to transition from the military to entrepreneurship. As I have noted, this bill for the first time creates a nationwide network of Veterans Business Centers. As our servicemen and -women return home from Afghanistan and Iraq, many of them will look to launch their own businesses as the next step in their careers. This network of Veterans Business Centers will aid them as they make that move. For many veterans, entrepreneurship is a logical next step. Already today, veterans comprise 14 percent of self-employed people. Service-disabled veterans make up 7 percent of small businesses. The underlying legislation would help these veterans who own their own firms as well as assist veterans seeking to start their own enterprises. The amendment before us helps to refine and improve the veterans provisions contained in this bill.

Specifically, the amendment requires that the new veterans centers offer specialized services to help unemployed veterans. In addition, the amendment will help the SBA improve outreach and education to veterans in high unemployment areas, and it would mean that the SBA will dedicate resources to assist those veterans who need help the most. In short, this amendment will do right by those who have served our Nation.

I now yield to the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri, for any comments that he may have.

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you, Madam Chair, for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, the area where you are seeing a lot of veterans right now come back and, obviously, set up a lot of small businesses is a rapidly growing area. This provision in the bill is well overdue, in my opinion. It just goes along with the whole nature of the bill, to modernize so many of the SBA programs. I support the amendment.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Chairman, I recognize the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DRIEHAUS) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. I thank the gentleman for his amendment and the underlying bill. I rise to support the amendment and the underlying bill.

We heard just a little while ago the gentlewoman from Colorado talk about the pitfalls in creating small businesses and the challenges that entrepreneurs face. This is about identifying those challenges and helping veterans, as they return, think through the issues of creating a viable business plan, assistance with product development, providing assistance in marketing, learning how to access capital necessary to make their businesses successful. In sum, this is about leveraging the skills that so many of our men and women have learned, so many of our men and women have utilized overseas so that when they return home, they can put those skills to work in terms of small business development, in terms of coming together and driving this economy and creating new jobs. This is the direction we should be heading.

I support the amendment.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. If the gentleman is prepared to yield back, we are prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. BOCCIERI. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. HIMES

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 111-121.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. HIMES:

Page 12, line 15, strike “section 46” and insert “section 47”.

Page 50, after line 16, add the following new title:

TITLE VIII—MICROENTERPRISE TRAINING CENTER PROGRAM

SEC. 801. MICROENTERPRISE TRAINING CENTER PROGRAM.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 45, as added by section 301(b) of this Act, the following:

“SEC. 46. MICROENTERPRISE TRAINING CENTER PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a microenterprise training center program for the purpose of providing low-income and unemployed individuals with training and counseling with respect to starting a microenterprise.

“(b) NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CENTERS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Administrator shall establish

10 microenterprise training centers, which, to the extent practicable, shall be located in a manner that promotes the geographic diversity of such centers. The Administrator shall give priority in locating such centers to areas with high proportions of low-income and unemployed individuals.

“(c) FUNCTION.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Administrator shall ensure that microenterprise training centers provide training and resources to individuals seeking to start a new microenterprise, including through the provision of classes, one-on-one instruction, and other services the Administrator determines appropriate.

“(d) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall coordinate the program established under subsection (a) with other programs of the Administration that may provide support to microenterprises.

“(e) DEFINITION OF MICROENTERPRISE.—In this section, the term ‘microenterprise’ means a business with not more than 6 employees and begun with an initial investment of not more than \$40,000.”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Entrepreneurship in low-income areas is hindered not just by a lack of capital but by a lack of skills and training. Business skills training in low-income communities works. A recent Center For Employment Training study of 5,000 workers showed an average income boost of \$7,500 to \$26,000 for individuals receiving 28 weeks of business training. My amendment directs the SBA to invest in 10 Microenterprise Training Centers to provide training and resources to individuals seeking to start new small businesses, including expert-led classes, group workshops and one-on-one instruction. It authorizes no specific amount of new funds. We will look to make a small addition to the SBA operating budget later in the appropriations process.

This amendment is about spurring job creation in low-income communities, those communities that need jobs, that need small businesses most. These are the communities that are hardest hit by economic downturns, the last to recover and, in many instances, the communities that, absent jobs, draw on the public purse for the kind of public support that they need. So in the spirit of this bill, and with the support of the Small Business Committee, I urge my colleagues' positive consideration of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I certainly concur with the gentleman that it is important to make sure that individuals wishing to start a very small business have access to appropriate training and technical assistance. However, where I part company with the

gentleman is the need to create a program that duplicates services already available through the SBA. Microloan intermediaries are required by section 7(m) of the Small Business Act to provide counseling and training to individuals wanting to start microenterprises. In addition, such services also are available from Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Tribal Business Centers and Veterans Business Centers. Nothing exists in the record before the committee that suggests individuals who are interested in starting microenterprises do not have access to necessary training and technical assistance. So creating another program that duplicates existing efforts through the SBA is not a sound use of scarce taxpayer dollars.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. I yield to the gentlelady from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman from Connecticut for this great amendment.

We often hear discussion of the concept of “welfare to work.” Well, the amendment before us will move many Americans from “welfare to entrepreneurship.” Studies consistently demonstrate that entrepreneurship provides a path out of poverty for many Americans. In particular, we have seen that for many impoverished women, launching their own small business can mean a chance at a bright future. This amendment will provide entrepreneurial development resources to those communities that have been hardest hit by this recession by creating Microenterprise Training Centers. These centers will let Americans interested in starting a very small business, such as a home-based business, access valuable classes, one-on-one instruction and other guidance. These resources will help launch the smallest small businesses, those with six or less employees and that start with \$40,000 or less in capital. Under the amendment, the SBA will establish these training centers. The administrator is instructed to place them in parts of the country that have a high proportion of low-income and unemployed individuals.

Mr. Chairman, when economic downturns like the current one hit, those communities that are already hurting often carry the brunt of the pain. Those areas already struggling with high unemployment suffer the most when jobs become even more scarce. The amendment before us will provide additional options for Americans living in these communities. It will mean that those living in poverty will have a better chance to secure their economic independence and build a better life for themselves. The Microloans Program is a program that lends to businesses and those who want to start up a business. These are microenterprises that will provide technical assistance and guidance for those who want to start up a business. It's different.

I commend the gentleman for offering this amendment.

Mr. HIMES. I thank the gentlelady from New York for her statement and for her terrific leadership on this bill.

I would just note to my colleague from Missouri that he is absolutely right to be concerned about safeguarding taxpayer dollars and avoiding duplicative efforts. However, I would point out that this amendment creates a program targeted and tailored to low-income and unemployed individuals and, therefore, doesn't duplicate the SBA's currently existing programs, which are largely tied to the lending that is often not extended to lower income and unemployed individuals. In fact, there are very few Federal resources available for lower income individuals seeking to start a business. The Microloan Program that the gentleman refers to is built around loans and actually in previous budgets has been zeroed out. So I believe and feel this personally, having spent a year helping microbusinesses in the Bronx and seeing personally how very economically powerful small businesses can be in distressed communities, that we can find our way to support this amendment and make it part of a very good and useful bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. KRATOVIL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 111-121.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 6 offered by Mr. KRATOVIL:
Page 12, line 15, strike “section 46” and insert “section 47”.

Page 50, after line 16, add the following new title:

**TITLE VIII—RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ADVISORY COUNCIL
SEC. 801. RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVISORY
COUNCIL.**

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 45, as added by section 301(b) of this Act, the following:

**“SEC. 46. RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVISORY
COUNCIL.**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a rural entrepreneurship advisory council (hereinafter referred to in this section as the ‘council’).

“(b) COMPOSITION.—The Administrator shall ensure that the council is composed of appropriate officials from the Administration, the rural development programs of the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Commerce and of representatives, who volunteer for the council, from the academic, small business, agriculture, and high-tech communities.

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—

“(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the council shall submit to the Administrator and to Congress a report on the following:

“(A) Entrepreneurship in rural communities compared to urban communities.

“(B) Potential barriers to entrepreneurship for individuals in rural communities.

“(C) Effective Federal policies that are expanding entrepreneurship in rural communities.

“(D) Recommendations for Federal policies to foster entrepreneurship in rural communities and to ensure that rural entrepreneurs have equal access to technical assistance, entrepreneurial opportunities, and educational outreach.

“(2) ADVICE.—The council shall provide ongoing advice to the Administrator with respect to rural entrepreneurship and make recommendations to foster rural entrepreneurs, including through the effective use of broadband technology.”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

□ 1545

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to congratulate the Small Business Committee chairwoman, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and lead sponsor, Congressman HEATH SHULER, for bringing H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009, to the floor today. This legislation will arm small businesses and entrepreneurs, who are the lifeblood of our economy, to grow and prosper.

Investing in America's small businessmen and -women will help our economy recover. Small businesses create approximately four out of five new jobs. These small businesses are the backbone of the economy. They are the mom-and-pop stores on the Main Streets in small towns across America. But they are also individuals who are willing to take a risk and begin their own small high-tech companies.

I, like many Members of the House of Representatives, represent a largely rural district. A drive up and down Route 50 in my district reveals a landscape dotted with car dealerships that have closed their doors, restaurants that have gone out of business, empty hotel parking lots and store fronts with more vacancy than occupants. Although these images are not unique to rural areas, they deliver a much deeper blow to rural areas that rely on these small businesses for a greater percentage of local revenue and regional commerce than metropolitan and suburban areas.

For this reason, I have offered an amendment that would establish a rural entrepreneurship advisory council within the Small Business Administration. The council will be comprised of appropriate officials from the SBA, the rural development programs of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce, as well as representatives from the academic, small business, agriculture and high-tech sectors. The council is tasked with providing a report to Congress on rural entrepreneurship, specifically a report on entrepreneurship in rural communities

compared to urban communities, potential barriers for individuals in rural communities, effective Federal policies that are expanding entrepreneurship in rural communities, and recommendations for Federal policies to foster entrepreneurship in rural communities and to ensure that rural entrepreneurs have equal access to technical assistance, entrepreneurial opportunities and educational outreach.

The council will also provide ongoing advice to the SBA administrator on issues related to rural entrepreneurship and how to foster rural entrepreneurs, including the effective use of broadband technology. This is a simple, commonsense amendment that will ensure our Nation's rural entrepreneurs are not left behind.

I urge support of the amendment as well as the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, while not opposed to the amendment, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland will greatly expand the reach of entrepreneurial development programs. Too often small business owners or prospective entrepreneurs cannot access these programs because they live in a rural or remote area. For those small businesses in these parts of America, the nearest Small Business Development Center or Women's Business Center is often many miles away. This can prevent small businesses from accessing the services that we are improving and reauthorizing in the underlying bill.

The amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland will further ensure that the SBA pays attention to the needs of rural America. Specifically, it creates a rural entrepreneurship advisory council at the Small Business Administration. Drawing from the expertise of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce, this panel will see to it that ED services provided by the SBA are effective for rural small businesses.

In many rural areas, many small businesses are particularly important. Often they are the community's largest employer. This amendment will ensure that the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs are meeting the needs of rural America.

I urge the adoption of the amendment.

And I now yield to the gentleman from Missouri for any remarks that he might have.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, and I have no opposition. I thank the gentlelady.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. If the gentleman is prepared to yield back, we are prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. KRATOVIL. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF NEW YORK

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 111-121.

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 7 offered by Mr. MURPHY of New York:

Page 4, line 11, strike “\$150,000” and insert the following: “\$200,000”.

Page 4, line 18, strike “\$100,000” and insert the following: “\$150,000”.

Page 6, line 24, strike “\$10,000,000” and insert the following: “\$12,000,000”.

Page 6, line 25, strike “\$12,000,000” and insert the following: “\$14,000,000”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Like so many other Members here today, I rise to speak in favor of this bill and in particular an amendment that I think will make it stronger. For many years, I have been a small business owner, a founder of small businesses, and for the last 8 years, I have been investing in small businesses all over New York. I have seen the challenges that small business people face, and I'm well aware of the needs that they have as they start these businesses. And in particular in this troubled economic time, what those of us that work in the small business world know is that many more entrepreneurs will turn to their own efforts to start small businesses. We will see a lot more small businesses founded by entrepreneurs in these troubled economic times as people can't find jobs and they are getting laid off from bigger companies.

In particular, you have got that combined with the veterans that are coming back from our efforts overseas. And as we draw down in Iraq, a large number of veterans will be coming back and mustering out looking for job opportunities. What they are going to need is help because they are going to go and try to start small businesses. And it is a difficult task.

My amendment would increase the funding for the Veterans Business Centers that are already contemplated in

this bill. Instead of \$150,000 for each of the first 5 years, they would be allocated up to \$200,000. And instead of \$100,000 thereafter for 3 additional years, they could go up to \$150,000. I think it is critical that we make sure that we have enough of these Veterans Business Centers, like the one that we already have in the Albany area near my district, to help as many veterans as we can when they come back.

There is a great need out there. I saw this myself. I started my first business when I was 24 years old. People ask me, What would you do differently if you did it again? And every time I say, The thing I would do differently is I would turn to get more advice from experienced people early on. That is exactly what these centers will provide for our veterans. And I ask that people support this amendment to make sure we have the funding for them.

And I reserve the remainder of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, while not opposed to the amendment, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York for offering this amendment, as I believe it will help to improve the bill. As we all know, and we have seen and we heard that veteran entrepreneurship is on the rise, meaning that these services are in greater and greater demand.

The existing Veterans Business Outreach Centers have seen a 61 percent increase in veterans' requests for their services. Women's Business Centers report a 103 percent increase in veterans' requests. Clearly there is a hunger out there for these type of initiatives. And as more of our men and women return from Iraq and Afghanistan, the need for veterans' entrepreneurial development programs can be expected to grow.

By increasing the resources that are available for our former servicemen and -women, this amendment will help many of them launch their own businesses.

I will now yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) for any comments that he wishes to make.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I have no opposition to the amendment and support it; and I thank the gentlelady for yielding time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman is prepared to yield back, we are prepared to accept this amendment.

Mr. MURPHY of New York. I yield back.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. NYE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 111-121.

Mr. NYE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. NYE:
Page 12, line 15, strike "section 46" and insert "section 47".

Page 50, after line 16, add the following new title:

TITLE VIII—MILITARY ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM

SEC. 801. MILITARY ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 45, as added by section 301(b) of this Act, the following:

"SEC. 46. MILITARY ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a program to provide business counseling and entrepreneurial development assistance to members of the Armed Forces to facilitate the development of small business concerns.

"(b) LIAISON.—In carrying out the program described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall establish a liaison to facilitate outreach to members of the Armed Forces with respect to business counseling and entrepreneurial development assistance.

"(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal years 2010 and 2011."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. NYE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act. In fact, I authored title I, the Veterans Business Centers provision, and I am in strong support of the title as it is. Today, however, I would like to make a minor addition to that bill, the Military Entrepreneurs Program.

Mr. Chairman, it takes a special kind of person to be an entrepreneur. Small business ownership takes leadership. And in times like these, it takes resilience. So it is not surprising that, as they reenter civilian life, many of our returning servicemembers decide to launch their own enterprises. After all, these are the same attributes that they have exhibited while serving our Nation.

Our veterans leave the military with valuable skills and experience. But they often don't have the resources to apply those skills to the challenge of starting and running a small business. This bill will make sure our veterans have the support they need to launch successful small businesses. And by supporting our veterans and our small businesses, we will help create jobs and get our economy going again.

The cornerstone of this effort will be a new nationwide network of services dedicated to veteran entrepreneurs

called Veteran Business Centers. Establishing this joint public-private network will provide veterans with the dedicated counseling and business training they need to launch new enterprises or grow existing businesses. By creating a new program to assist veterans in accessing capital and securing loans and credit, we will help them overcome some of the most significant hurdles blocking them from becoming successfully self-employed.

By creating a new program to help our veterans to navigate the procurement process, they will be able to compete more effectively in the Federal marketplace.

The Recovery Act is expected to create work in many sectors that are veteran dominated, like engineering, telecommunications, project management and construction. This bill will help veteran entrepreneurs take advantage of these opportunities.

In coordination with these new Veteran Business Centers, this amendment, the Military Entrepreneurs Program, will direct the SBA to provide servicemembers transitioning to civilian life entrepreneurial information, training and financial guidance, the things they need to start up a business.

This amendment specifically targets young entrepreneurs and proactively reaches out to them, letting them know the immense resources that are available to them. This ensures our returning warfighters have the know-how to land firmly on their feet after they have honorably served our country.

Our veterans made every sacrifice necessary to defend liberty, justice and American values; and they deserve every chance at a fair shot at the American Dream. For that reason, the Veteran Business Centers provision has the support of both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I strongly urge passage of this amendment and the bill.

And I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, while not opposed to the amendment, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, let me start by saying that the gentleman from Virginia has been enormously helpful in crafting this legislation. He authored the bill on which title I is based. That measure establishes a portfolio of entrepreneurial development services for our Nation's veterans.

The amendment that he is now offering will go even further. As we have already noted, members of our Armed Forces are natural candidates for entrepreneurship. They exhibit the dedication, resolve and leadership skills that it takes to launch a new enterprise. In many cases, they make excellent Federal contractors as they are familiar with the procurement process or are in fields in high demand by the government.

This amendment takes a very proactive approach by reaching out to members of the military before they are discharged easing their transition back into civilian life.

Today, too many Americans who have worn the uniform of our Nation find themselves unemployed after separating from the service. With this amendment, we create another option, another career path for members of our military.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia for offering this amendment and for all of his work on this bill.

And I now yield to the ranking member from Missouri for any comments that he might have.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I have no opposition to the amendment. I support it. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. If the gentleman is prepared to yield back, we are prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. NYE. I yield back.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I urge the adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. SCHAUER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 111-121.

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 9 offered by Mr. SCHAUER: Page 50, after line 16, add the following new section:

SEC. 708. SMALL MANUFACTURERS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(s) SMALL MANUFACTURERS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall establish a grant program for small business development centers in accordance with this subsection. To be eligible for the program, a small business development center must be in good standing and comply with the other requirements of this section. Funds made available through the program shall be used to—

“(A) provide technical assistance and expertise to small manufacturers with respect to changing operations to another industry sector or reorganizing operations to increase efficiency and profitability;

“(B) assist marketing of the capabilities of small manufacturers outside the principal area of operations of such manufacturers;

“(C) facilitate peer-to-peer and mentor-protégé relationships between small manufacturers and corporations and Federal agencies; and

“(D) conduct outreach activities to local small manufacturers with respect to the availability of the services described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

“(2) DEFINITION OF SMALL MANUFACTURER.—In this subsection, the term ‘small manufacturer’ means a small business concern engaged in an industry specified in sectors 31, 32, or 33 of the North American Industry Classification System in section 121.201 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(3) AWARD SIZE LIMIT.—The Administration may not award an entity more than \$250,000 in grant funds under this subsection.

“(4) AUTHORITY.—Subject to amounts approved in advance in appropriations Acts and separate from amounts approved to carry out the program established in subsection (a)(1), the Administration may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to carry out this subsection.

“(5) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,500,000 for the purposes of carrying out this subsection for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 457, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHAUER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. SCHAUER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment to address a pressing need in my community and in many communities around the country. We need to help small businesses succeed in this difficult economy. It's not enough to simply survive this downturn; we need to expand and grow jobs, and small businesses are the best way to do that. I'm so pleased that this bill has been brought forward. I thank the chair for her leadership and the sponsor of this bill to address these pressing needs.

In Michigan, we've been fighting this economic fight for 9 years. One of the bright spots in our fight has been the Small Business Development Center program. In my State, our SBDC has a great record of achievement. In 2007, more than 11,000 businesses were served by this program, and these companies created more than 3,000 jobs. In 2008, more than 12,000 businesses were assisted through SBDCs. These businesses included 515 veteran-owned businesses, 2,200 female-owned businesses, and 2,500 startups. Counseling provided by SBDCs helped create more than 3,400 new jobs in Michigan, despite the economic turmoil that my State has been facing.

Clearly, this program works, and my amendment grows this program to help small manufacturers that have been pummeled by this recession. Specifically, Mr. Chair, my amendment creates a \$2.5 million pool of funds to establish a grant program. It's a new section in the Small Business Act to create the Small Manufacturers Transition Assistance Program to provide technical assistance and expertise to small manufacturers that are seeking opportunities in different industrial sectors.

For example, if a small machine shop wants to shift from automotive contracting to aviation or aerospace contracting, my amendment provides

funding for Small Business Development Centers to provide help with that transition.

And this isn't just a hypothetical situation. This is a very real one in my State where struggling manufacturers are looking to new opportunities to survive and grow.

The SBDCs have had real success in this area, but more resources are needed during these tough times for American manufacturing. That is why I offer this amendment to create the Small Manufacturers Transition Assistance Program. Mr. Chair, these are services that 11,000 to 12,000 businesses a year use in my State, and they're desperately needed at this time. I hope my colleagues will support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I am not opposed to the amendment. I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan is a well-thought-out proposal. In fact, earlier this month, the House Small Business Committee conducted a hearing regarding how small parts suppliers and manufacturers are coping given the current problems in the automobile industry. What we heard is troubling. Experts predict that half of the Nation's auto suppliers will be shut down by 2012. Many have already closed their doors.

These factories are vital not just to the automotive sector but to our overall economy. Parts suppliers alone employ 3.2 million workers. We know that the three big car manufacturers are suffering, but these are the smaller of the smaller, and they need our help. So it is very important what this amendment will do.

In the past, these manufacturers have supplied the American automobile industry, and I believe they can continue to have a bright future. By modernizing their facilities and entering new markets, they can keep offering good-paying jobs to millions of Americans while maintaining a strong manufacturing base in this country.

If we have learned any one thing from the current economic crisis, it is that economic stability starts from the bottom up, not the other way around. By stabilizing small manufacturers and part suppliers, we can help the larger firms in the automotive industry. In that process, we will protect millions of jobs. The amendment before us will further this goal.

I urge its adoption, and I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) for any comments he wishes to make.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Chairman, I have no opposition to the amendment. I associate myself with the remarks of the gentlelady from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. If the gentleman is prepared to yield back.

Mr. SCHAUER. I thank my colleagues for their support.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHAUER).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of New York) having assumed the chair, Mr. HOLDEN, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2352) to amend the Small Business Act, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1717

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TONKO) at 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 374.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 374.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOB CREATION THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 457 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2352.

□ 1718

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2352) to amend the Small Business Act, and for other purposes, with Mr. SALAZAR (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 111-121 offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHAUER) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. KRATOVIL

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 427, noes 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 279]

AYES—427

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Abercrombie | Cantor | Driehaus |
| Ackerman | Cao | Duncan |
| Aderholt | Capito | Edwards (MD) |
| Adler (NJ) | Capps | Edwards (TX) |
| Akin | Capuano | Ehlers |
| Alexander | Cardoza | Ellison |
| Altmire | Carnahan | Ellsworth |
| Andrews | Carney | Emerson |
| Arcuri | Carson (IN) | Engel |
| Austria | Carter | Eshoo |
| Baca | Cassidy | Etheridge |
| Bachus | Castle | Faleomavaega |
| Baird | Chaffetz | Fallin |
| Baldwin | Chandler | Farr |
| Barrow | Childers | Fattah |
| Bartlett | Filmer | Christensen |
| Barton (TX) | Clarke | Flake |
| Bean | Clay | Fleming |
| Berkley | Cleaver | Forbes |
| Berman | Clyburn | Fortenberry |
| Berry | Coble | Foster |
| Biggert | Coffman (CO) | Fox |
| Bilbray | Cohen | Frank (MA) |
| Bilirakis | Cole | Franks (AZ) |
| Bishop (GA) | Conaway | Frelinghuysen |
| Bishop (NY) | Connolly (VA) | Fudge |
| Blackburn | Conyers | Galleghy |
| Blumenauer | Cooper | Garrett (NJ) |
| Blunt | Costa | Gerlach |
| Boccieri | Costello | Giffords |
| Boehner | Courtney | Gingrey (GA) |
| Bonner | Crenshaw | Gohmert |
| Bono Mack | Crowley | Gonzalez |
| Boozman | Cuellar | Goodlatte |
| Bordallo | Culberson | Gordon (TN) |
| Boren | Cummings | Granger |
| Boswell | Dahlkemper | Graves |
| Boucher | Davis (AL) | Grayson |
| Boustany | Davis (CA) | Green, Al |
| Boyd | Davis (IL) | Green, Gene |
| Brady (PA) | Davis (KY) | Griffith |
| Brady (TX) | Davis (TN) | Grijalva |
| Bright | Deal (GA) | Guthrie |
| Broun (GA) | DeFazio | Gutierrez |
| Brown (SC) | DeGette | Hall (NY) |
| Brown, Corrine | Delahunt | Hall (TX) |
| Brown-Waite, | DeLauro | Halvorson |
| Ginny | Dent | Hare |
| Buchanan | Diaz-Balart, L. | Harman |
| Burgess | Diaz-Balart, M. | Harper |
| Burton (IN) | Dicks | Hastings (FL) |
| Butterfield | Dingell | Hastings (WA) |
| Buyer | Doggett | Heinrich |
| Calvert | Donnelly (IN) | Heller |
| Camp | Doyle | Hensarling |
| Campbell | Dreier | Herger |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Herseth Sandlin | McCotter | Royce |
| Higgins | McDermott | Ruppersberger |
| Hill | McGovern | Rush |
| Himes | McHenry | Ryan (OH) |
| Hinchey | McHugh | Ryan (WI) |
| Hinojosa | McIntyre | Sablan |
| Hirono | McKeon | Salazar |
| Hodes | McMahon | Sanchez, Loretta |
| Hoekstra | McMorris | Sarbantes |
| Holden | Rodgers | Scalise |
| Holt | McNerney | Schakowsky |
| Honda | Meek (FL) | Schauer |
| Hoyer | Meeks (NY) | Schiff |
| Hunter | Melancon | Schmidt |
| Inglis | Mica | Schock |
| Inslie | Michaud | Schrader |
| Israel | Miller (FL) | Schwartz |
| Issa | Miller (MI) | Scott (GA) |
| Jackson (IL) | Miller (NC) | Scott (VA) |
| Jackson-Lee | Miller, Gary | Sensenbrenner |
| (TX) | Miller, George | Serrano |
| Jenkins | Minnick | Sessions |
| Johnson (GA) | Mitchell | Sestak |
| Johnson (IL) | Mollohan | Shadegg |
| Johnson, E. B. | Moore (KS) | Shea-Porter |
| Johnson, Sam | Moore (WI) | Sherman |
| Jones | Moran (KS) | Shimkus |
| Jordan (OH) | Moran (VA) | Shuler |
| Kagen | Murphy (CT) | Shuster |
| Kanjorski | Murphy (NY) | Simpson |
| Kaptur | Murphy, Patrick | Sires |
| Kennedy | Murphy, Tim | Skelton |
| Kildee | Murtha | Slaughter |
| Kilpatrick (MI) | Myrick | Smith (NE) |
| Kilroy | Nadler (NY) | Smith (NJ) |
| Kind | Napolitano | Smith (TX) |
| King (IA) | Neal (MA) | Smith (WA) |
| King (NY) | Neugebauer | Snyder |
| Kingston | Norton | Souder |
| Kirk | Nunes | Space |
| Kirkpatrick (AZ) | Nye | Spratt |
| Kissell | Oberstar | Stearns |
| Klein (FL) | Obey | Stupak |
| Kline (MN) | Olson | Sullivan |
| Kosmas | Olver | Sutton |
| Kratovil | Ortiz | Tanner |
| Kucinich | Pallone | Tauscher |
| Lamborn | Pascrell | Taylor |
| Lance | Pastor (AZ) | Teague |
| Langevin | Paul | Terry |
| Larsen (WA) | Paulsen | Thompson (CA) |
| Larson (CT) | Payne | Thompson (MS) |
| Latham | Pence | Thornberry |
| LaTourette | Perlmutter | Tiahrt |
| Latta | Perriello | Tierney |
| Lee (CA) | Peters | Titus |
| Lee (NY) | Peterson | Tonko |
| Levin | Petri | Towns |
| Lewis (CA) | Pingree (ME) | Tsongas |
| Lewis (GA) | Pitts | Turner |
| Lipinski | Platts | Upton |
| LoBiondo | Poe (TX) | Van Hollen |
| Loeback | Pollis (CO) | Velázquez |
| Lofgren, Zoe | Pomeroy | Vislosky |
| Lowe | Posey | Walden |
| Lucas | Price (GA) | Walz |
| Luetkemeyer | Price (NC) | Wamp |
| Luján | Putnam | Wasserman |
| Lummis | Quigley | Wasserman |
| Lungren, Daniel | Radanovich | Schultz |
| E. | Rahall | Waters |
| Lynch | Rangel | Watson |
| Mack | Rehberg | Watt |
| Maffei | Reichert | Waxman |
| Maloney | Reyes | Weiner |
| Manzullo | Richardson | Welch |
| Marchant | Rodriguez | Westmoreland |
| Markey (CO) | Roe (TN) | Wexler |
| Markey (MA) | Rogers (AL) | Whitfield |
| Marshall | Rogers (KY) | Wilson (OH) |
| Massa | Rogers (MI) | Wilson (SC) |
| Matheson | Rohrabacher | Wittman |
| Matsui | Rooney | Wolf |
| McCarthy (CA) | Ros-Lehtinen | Woolsey |
| McCarthy (NY) | Roskam | Wu |
| McCaul | Ross | Yarmuth |
| McClintock | Rothman (NJ) | Young (AK) |
| McCollum | Roybal-Allard | Young (FL) |

NOT VOTING—12

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bachmann | Castor (FL) | Speier |
| Barrett (SC) | Linder | Stark |
| Becerra | Pierluisi | Thompson (PA) |
| Bishop (UT) | Sánchez, Linda | |
| Bralley (IA) | T. | |

□ 1744

Mr. BURGESS changed his vote from "no" to "aye."