

and guidance, helping them to identify opportunities for growth.

The bipartisan Women's Business Centers Improvement Act will strengthen the Women's Business Center program, increase authorized funding, and enact commonsense taxpayer protections and oversight provisions to safeguard public dollars and ensure that the program efficiently serves the American people.

Additionally, the bill will expand the cap on grants made available under this program, which will better support our women entrepreneurs. These improvements will help the Women's Business Centers program run efficiently and expand into more communities, like those underserved communities particularly in my district and Ms. DAVIDS' district and all across New York and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan women-owned small businesses bill and vote "yes" on H.R. 6441. Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Women's Business Centers Improvement Act, and I thank Representatives DAVIDS and TENNEY for their work on this very important and bipartisan piece of legislation.

As our small business owners continue to recover from the pandemic, Congress must do everything it can to ensure access to quality entrepreneurial development resources.

Underscoring the need for this bill, a recent study in partnership with the Association of Women's Business Centers found that profits for female business owners dropped by 26 percent from 2020 to 2021, with average profits of about \$47,000 less than male-owned firms.

The economic pressures of the pandemic have hit women-owned businesses particularly hard, including increasing operating expenses due to supply chain disruptions and rising costs.

As an entrepreneur myself, I recognize the challenges women business leaders face every day and especially in this moment. It is why I stand before you to talk about the importance of passing the Women's Business Centers Improvement Act.

This legislation will make needed improvements to the Small Business Administration's successful Women's Business Center program. The bill will also strengthen the Office of Women's Business Ownership and will improve coordination between the Association of Women's Business Centers and the SBA.

Furthermore, this legislation allows Congress to increase funding for Women's Business Center programs, which I have been proud to advocate for with my colleague, Representative MARIE NEWMAN.

With these additional resources, the SBA will be able to advise and train more women entrepreneurs. I have seen

the demand for such programs right in my community of Chester and Berks Counties.

In fact, this bipartisan effort is especially impactful for our Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which has one of the highest numbers of women-owned businesses in the Nation. The time is now to build on that success.

I thank Small Business Committee Chair VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER again for helping to bring this important bill to a vote before the House today. I urge my colleagues to join me and vote "yes" today on this bipartisan bill to support our small business owners.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, the WBC program has delivered for women-owned small businesses for many years. This legislation reauthorizes the program, increases accountability and oversight, and ensures the program continues to serve our entrepreneurs in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6441, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Women are vital members of the Nation's critical small business community and the American economy. H.R. 6441 will modernize and strengthen SBA's WBC program so it can meet the moment and provide the necessary resources to women, particularly the ones driven out of the workforce during the pandemic.

Not only have Ms. DAVIDS and Ms. TENNEY continued to work to improve the WBC program, but they have expanded upon our efforts last Congress by addressing the challenges highlighted during the public health emergency. I thank them for this effort.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6441.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SCORE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ACT OF 2022

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6450) to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6450

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. SCORE PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

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

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

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

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

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

"(c) SCORE PROGRAM.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

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

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

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

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

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

"(i) every 2 years, conduct a financial examination of the SCORE Association to ensure that any costs paid for with Federal funds are allowable, allocable, and reasonable;

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

"(iii) maintain a system through which the SCORE Association provides documentation relating to such contracts; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“(3) ONLINE COMPONENT.—In addition to providing in-person services, the SCORE Association shall maintain and expand online counseling services including webinars, electronic mentoring platforms, and online toolkits to further support entrepreneurs.

“(4) ACCOUNTING.—The SCORE Association shall—

“(A) maintain a centralized accounting and financing system for each chapter of the SCORE program;

“(B) maintain a uniform policy and procedures to manage Federal funds received pursuant to a cooperative agreement described in paragraph (2); and

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

“(5) COMPENSATION.—

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

“(B) PERFORMANCE AWARDS.—The SCORE Association may spend up to 5 percent of the aggregate salaries of employees of the SCORE Association on individual performance awards to employees of the SCORE Association, to be disbursed before the last day of the fiscal year, if not later than 60 days before such disbursement the SCORE Association submits to the Administrator a report on the number and amount of such awards to be disbursed.

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

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

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

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

“(7) PUBLISHED MATERIALS.—The SCORE Association shall ensure all published materials include written acknowledgment of

Small Business Administration support of the SCORE program if such materials are paid for in whole or in part by Federal funds.

“(8) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

“(C) STANDARDS.—

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

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

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

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

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

“(A) the total number and the number of unique clients counseled or trained under the SCORE program;

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

“(C) the number of local workshops provided under the SCORE program;

“(D) the number of clients attending online and local workshops provided under the SCORE program;

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

“(F) with respect to businesses assisted under the SCORE program, the cost to create a job, the cost to create a business, and return on investment;

“(G) the number of referrals of SCORE program clients to other resources and programs of the Administration;

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

“(I) the results of SCORE program client satisfactory surveys, including a summary of any comments received from such clients;

“(J) the number of new businesses started up by SCORE program clients;

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

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

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

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

“(O) an explanation of how the SCORE program has been integrated with—

“(i) small business development centers;

“(ii) women’s business centers (described under section 29);

“(iii) Veteran Business Outreach Centers 20 (described under section 32);

“(iv) other offices of the Administration; and

“(v) other public and private entities engaging in entrepreneurial and small business development.”

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

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

“(i) SCORE PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the SCORE program authorized by section 8(b)(1) such sums as are necessary for the Administrator to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements in a total amount that does not exceed \$13,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023.”

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON LEASED SPACE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report containing an assessment of the cost of leased space that is donated to the SCORE Association.

(c) ONLINE COMPONENT REPORT.—Not later than 3 months after the last day of the first full fiscal year following the date of the enactment of this Act, the SCORE Association shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the online counseling services required under paragraph (3) of section 8(c) of the Small Business Act, as added by section 2 of this Act, including a description of—

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

evaluates webinar and electronic mentoring results;

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

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

SEC. 5. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

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

(1) in section 7 (15 U.S.C. 636)—

(A) in subsection (b)(12)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting

“PROGRAM” after “SCORE”; and

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

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

(2) in section 22 (15 U.S.C. 649)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

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

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

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

(b) OTHER LAWS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6450, the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022.

America’s nearly 30 million small businesses represent more than 99 percent of all businesses. Since its inception, the SBA has undertaken efforts to connect new entrepreneurs and small business owners with more experienced businessmen and -women.

SCORE, one component of SBA’s resource partner ecosystem, is uniquely situated to make these connections. SCORE’S expansive network consists of entrepreneurs, business leaders, and executives who volunteer as mentors to small businesses and entrepreneurs, both in person and online.

SCORE volunteers provide personalized advice and pull from their personal business experience to help the next generation of business leaders. Providing consultation on topics such as business plan development, strategic marketing, and financing ideas, SCORE ensures their clients receive comprehensive counseling and training while meeting their individualized needs.

In 2020, through SCORE’S network of over 250 chapters and 10,000 volunteers, the program helped create over 45,000 new businesses and over 74,000 new jobs. In addition, SCORE had a return on Federal investment of over \$67 for every \$1 of Federal appropriations.

Increasing funding for SCORE is important to its continued success, and I am pleased that H.R. 6450 increases its authorization to \$13.5 million for 2 fiscal years.

H.R. 6450 not only reauthorizes this essential program but also takes necessary steps to restore integrity, accounting, and performance to the program.

The measures in the bill to expand and promote client and volunteer diversity will ensure SCORE can reach all of America’s small business owners

and entrepreneurs, no matter their background or location.

I commend Representatives YOUNG KIM and ANGIE CRAIG for working together to make sure that the SCORE program is strengthened while maintaining efficient and effective operations.

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

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

I rise in support today of H.R. 6450, the SCORE for Small Business Act.

SCORE is the largest network of free private-sector volunteer mentors. They provide entrepreneurs with trainings on starting a business; succession planning; and management, finance, and marketing tools.

SCORE mentors have helped small businesses pivot their business model during the pandemic. They have shared marketing and data analytics expertise to help entrepreneurs grow their customer base and counseled numerous startups on the first steps to begin a business.

In addition to reauthorizing the program, H.R. 6450 takes important strides to add new program safeguards, data standards, and reporting requirements.

I am confident the provisions of this bill will support small business, improve SBA’s and Congress’ oversight of the SCORE program, and ensure that the integrity of the SCORE Association is restored and maintained.

Congresswoman KIM is a great advocate for small businesses and their resource partners, and I appreciate her work on this legislation. I also thank Ms. CRAIG and the chair for advancing this legislation.

H.R. 6450 was favorably reported out of the Committee on Small Business unanimously and passed the House last Congress in a similar form. I urge my colleagues to similarly pass the bill today on the House floor.

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

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the ranking member on the Small Business Subcommittee of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development; a small business owner herself; and a great advocate for small businesses.

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Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for their leadership on the Small Business Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my legislation, H.R. 6450, the SCORE for Small Business Act of 2022. This bipartisan bill reauthorizes the SCORE program for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, and it will allow SCORE to expand counseling and training through online

webinars, electronic mentoring platforms, and online toolkits to better serve small businesses and entrepreneurs across U.S. communities, including the rural and underserved areas.

Additionally, this bill would better protect taxpayers' dollars through oversight mechanisms. Since 1964, SCORE has helped over 11 million entrepreneurs to establish, expand, or service a small business. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began early 2020, SCORE has seen a 30 percent increase in demand for their services. Despite challenges faced, 89 percent of SCORE clients stayed in business throughout 2020.

In 2021, the SCORE chapter in Orange County in my district helped start 269 new small businesses and create nearly 4,000 jobs. In 2019, prior to the pandemic, Orange County SCORE delivered 11,154 total services. In 2021, they delivered 25,146 total services. This is a 125 percent increase and over double the rate of pre-pandemic levels.

Thanks to the volunteers and mentors in SCORE, countless small businesses in my district have been able to keep their businesses running and keep their employees on their payroll.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative CRAIG, for her partnership on this. I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6450 and allow SCORE to continue this public-private partnership to support small businesses across the country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, small businesses consistently highlight the importance of resources to grow their business and serve their communities.

The private sector driven SCORE mentorship program is an important tool for small businesses seeking assistance and guidance during these challenging economic times.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 6450, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the SCORE program has made good progress improving the transparency, accountability, and efficacy of their organization. Today's legislation builds upon that progress so that a critical program can succeed well into the future.

SCORE is unique among SBA's resource partners in that they connect clients directly with successful business mentors who have firsthand experience and knowledge to help them with their unique situations.

H.R. 6450 will expand SCORE's ability to reach more small business owners and entrepreneurs, particularly those in underserved and rural communities while maintaining the program improvements SCORE has worked hard to develop.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support of the SCORE program. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes", and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6450.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ONE STOP SHOP FOR SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE ACT OF 2021

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4877) to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4877

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR COMPLIANCE GUIDES.

Section 30 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(e) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Ombudsman shall maintain a publicly available website that includes—

"(1) hyperlinks to small entity compliance guides described under section 212(a)(1) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996; and

"(2) with respect to each such small entity compliance guide, the contact information for an individual who can offer assistance to small entities with respect to the rules that are the subject of such guide.

"(f) REPORT ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—The Ombudsman shall include in the annual report required under subsection (b)(2)(C) an assessment of agency compliance with the requirements of section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 for the year covered by such annual report."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4877, the One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2021, which will require SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman to maintain a centralized website for regulatory compliance guides.

Federal agencies are required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act to publish small entity compliance guides for each rule requiring a regulatory flexibility analysis.

These compliance guides are meant to explain Federal rules in easy-to-understand terms for small businesses and help them comply with Federal regulations that protect our environment, health, and consumer safety. However, small businesses do not always have the resources to navigate multiple agencies' websites to find these guides.

H.R. 4877 will ensure the Office of the National Ombudsman maintains an updated centralized website containing links to each agency's small business compliance guides and their relevant points of contact.

This simple step will significantly reduce the administrative burden on entrepreneurs, make compliance easier, and allow them to spend more time doing what they do best—running their businesses and creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives DELGADO and VAN DUYNE for working in a bipartisan manner to advance this bill to assist small businesses across the country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4877, the One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2021.

Federal agencies are required to publish small business compliance guides for certain regulations. Presently, these guides are housed in different agency websites making it difficult for small businesses to find and utilize.

This bipartisan legislation will create a one-stop-shop that will make it easier for small businesses to comply with Federal regulations. This bill will also require the centralized website to list contact information for the appropriate agency staff who could provide regulatory assistance to small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE) for working in tandem to bring this issue to the forefront.

H.R. 4877 passed out of committee by a voice vote and similar language passed the House floor in the 116th Congress. I encourage all Members to support this legislation.