



Testimony of Associate Administrator Paul Fitzpatrick Before the U.S. House Committee on Small Business

July 22, 2026

Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Velázquez, and distinguished members of the House Committee on Small Business:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

My name is Paul Fitzpatrick, and I serve as the Associate Administrator for the SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development. America's entrepreneurs don't just create businesses, they create jobs, build communities, and drive our nation's economic growth. The Office of Entrepreneurial Development exists to manage the public-private partnerships providing aspiring and existing small business owners with access to counseling, training, technical assistance, capital, and resource partners.

Under the leadership of President Trump and SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler, the Office of Entrepreneurial Development has delivered measurable results for taxpayers while equipping America's job creators with the tools to compete and grow. Across our nationwide network of resource partners, we are helping entrepreneurs start businesses, access capital, expand operations, create jobs, and strengthen local communities. At the same time, we are holding ourselves accountable for responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources and measurable program performance.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the agency took significant steps to strengthen oversight of entrepreneurial development programs. We conducted comprehensive reviews to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used effectively, improved internal accountability across our grant programs, and rooted out waste, fraud, and abuse. Additionally, we inherited a grant management and payment system from the previous administration with significant record-management and internal control deficiencies. For that reason, we moved quickly to implement a new grant management and payment system, ahead of schedule, which will lead to improved transparency and reliability in grant administration.



We also delivered on our commitments to America's entrepreneurs by working to distribute approximately \$340 million in grant funding that had been delayed by the prior administration—ensuring our resource partners could continue serving small businesses without interruption. These investments support counseling, mentoring, technical assistance, and business development services that help entrepreneurs launch, grow, and compete.

At the same time, we are aligning entrepreneurial development efforts with clear, measurable outcomes for the small business owners we serve and the taxpayers bearing the cost. Resource partners across the country are moving beyond one-size-fits-all workshops and instead helping entrepreneurs line up capital, break into new markets, and improve their competitive position in global supply chains, consistent with the Trump Administration's broader focus on Made in America and fair trade. These efforts complement SBA's record capital delivery in Fiscal Year 2025 and ensure that counseling and training are directly connected to growth, job creation, and long-term competitiveness.

We're also proud of our new Manufacturing in America Empower to Grow grant program, designed to help develop the next generation of America's skilled workforce by expanding small business access to hands-on training, entrepreneurial education, technical assistance, and capacity-building opportunities. Combined with the SBA's broader efforts to expand access to capital, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, strengthen domestic manufacturing, and promote Made in America, these investments are helping to build a stronger pipeline of entrepreneurs prepared to meet the demands of the modern and future economy alike.

Entrepreneurial development efforts complement the SBA's broader accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2025, including historic capital delivery, strengthened program integrity, record investment through the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program, rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, efforts to eliminate unnecessary regulations that burden small businesses, and rapid disaster assistance. I can say with full confidence that these initiatives reflect a renewed commitment to the SBA's core mission of helping America's entrepreneurs start, grow, and succeed.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.