



## *The NEA Monthly Lobbyist Report for Members*

### NEA - February 2026

#### **Advocacy and Engagement**

On February 18th, Lobbyit met with Jessica Dauchness, Legislative Director in the office of Lloyd Smucker, to discuss Rep. Max Miller's ACCESS Act. Rep. Smucker cosponsored H.R. 379 last year and has been a consistent supporter of market-based reforms and strengthening employer-sponsored coverage, particularly in his role on the House Committee on Ways and Means. During the meeting, Lobbyit referenced past efforts to reform STLDI that had stalled in committee and discussed the differences in the new legislative proposals aimed at expanding flexibility and affordability in coverage options. Jessica noted that Rep. Smucker would be especially interested in policies that enhance consumer choice, reinforce employer-employee based insurance, and provide alternatives that address shortcomings in the current ACA framework, and committed to taking a closer look at the ACCESS Act.

As a member of House Committee on Ways and Means, Rep. Smucker is particularly focused on Medicare, with several bills targeting inefficiencies in the system, including issues affecting occupational therapists and home health providers. He also cofounded the MAHA Caucus (now roughly 20 members) and recently sent a letter regarding the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans. We discussed their office's work on APTCs, with Ways and Means exploring alternatives to strengthen employer-provided coverage while addressing flaws in the ACA. Jessica mentioned that the Committee recently held a hearing on healthcare affordability, and Energy and Commerce has been engaging pharmaceutical companies as well - oversight that she expected to continue in the coming months. As a former small business owner, she emphasized that Rep. Smucker strongly supports market-led coverage options and was open to the flexibility offered by STLDIs. She noted a lot of overlap in healthcare priorities within the Ways and Means Committee as a challenge, and that the approaching midterms would likely lead to this coming back up over the summer given the post-August slowdown.

On February 20th, Lobbyit met with Karrah Spendlove from the office of Rep. Russ Fulcher to discuss progress in the short-term limited-duration insurance space and forecast upcoming legislation. Rep. Fulcher sits on the Energy and Commerce Committee and was a cosponsor of Rep. Buddy Carter's Healthcare Freedom and Choice Act. After introducing NEA and elaborating on our policy priorities, Jonathan spoke with Karrah Spendlove about a bill that Rep. Fulcher had introduced, the Removing Insurance Gaps for Health Treatment (RIGHT) Act in November 2025. The bill would restore STLDI caps to 36 months and define them in a way that would allow for more standardized rulemaking.

Karrah mentioned that, if we were already making the rounds to discuss support for Rep. Miller's ACCESS Act, they would appreciate any help we could give them in whipping up votes for the RIGHT Act as well. She noted that they had not heard much on progress from the committee staff, but that the committee's priorities had been elsewhere in the months since the bill had been introduced. She also mentioned that there were rumors circulating about a second reconciliation package in the upcoming months, though she added that these were speculative and it wasn't clear if or how they would impact the healthcare space. Finally, Karrah and Jonathan discussed other major legislative packages coming up in the House, including the Farm Bill and the Highway Bill, with Karrah adding that it was more likely to see movement on affordability moves such as STLDI once the "big wins" were taken care of.

## **Work on the Hill**

In the month of February, DC became the epicenter of high-stakes political confrontations that underscore deepening divides over immigration, election law, executive authority, and trade policy. Most prominently, February saw another appropriations impasse over funding for the Department of Homeland Security, a dispute that has not only led to a partial government shutdown but also highlighted broader difficulties in bipartisan negotiation in recent months. Despite a funding package signed on February 3rd that secured FY2026 funding for most government departments, the funding lapse for DHS began on February 14th after negotiations between congressional leadership stalled over immigration enforcement reforms and operational restrictions within the department. Democratic demands included enhanced oversight of ICE and CBP officers, provisions that Republicans largely rejected as non-starters, widening the partisan divide and effectively freezing progress on a full appropriations package.

As a second failed procedural vote in the Senate demonstrated, efforts to advance the House-passed DHS appropriations bill fell short of the 60 votes necessary for debate and left a stalemate that has persisted throughout the month. While this partial shutdown hasn't seen the same impact in furloughed employees, many workers within the Department such as TSA staff have faced missing paychecks, and emergency programs like the Global Entry traveler program were suspended as managers reallocated funding. The shutdown's direct effects became a prominent subject of congressional hearings and public testimony, with bipartisan concern expressed over disruptions to key services and infrastructure. Even high-profile transportation programs that millions of travelers rely upon, like TSA PreCheck, experienced uncertainty, with administrators initially halting them before quickly backtracking amid mounting criticism from industry groups and lawmakers. In short the partial shutdown's longevity throughout the month has revealed both the limits of congressional compromise and the depth of ideological contention surrounding immigration policy in recent months.

In tandem with fiscal conflicts, February witnessed intense legislative activity over election law, centered on the so-called *SAVE America Act*. This bill, rooted in the broader Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) framework first introduced in prior legislative sessions, would impose new federal requirements requiring documents proving U.S. citizenship in order to register to vote in federal elections (and require photo ID at the polls). Proponents argue the measure is necessary to bolster election integrity by ensuring only legitimate citizens participate in federal elections. Its backers, including President Trump and House Republican leadership, have framed it as a centerpiece of GOP legislative priorities ahead of the 2026 midterm elections and tied

their messaging to electoral security and fraud reduction. Critics have expressed concern that the legislation could add burdensome obstacles for Americans who do not have access to the required personal identification documents and will accrue expensive fees in attempting to obtain them, which may be especially challenging for low-income citizens or those who have changed their names. Despite its passage in the House of Representatives this month, the bill faces an uphill battle in the Senate, where Democratic opposition and a lack of unified Republican support have stalled floor action and threatened to leave the bill in legislative limbo.

Meanwhile, judicial action from the Supreme Court restrained the Trump administration's tariff powers in a major move this month. On February 20, the Court issued a landmark ruling determining that the executive branch's use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose sweeping tariffs exceeded the president's statutory authority. In a 6-3 decision, SCOTUS concluded that the emergency powers statute did not authorize the tariff scheme, rebuking one of the Trump administration's signature economic policy tools and prompting questions about the future of trade policy and executive authority. The ruling vacated portions of the lower court's decision and remanded certain issues, leaving unresolved questions about refunds for tariff revenue already collected. The decision reverberated across Capitol Hill, with policymakers already weighing legislative action and the White House responding with new 10% tariffs immediately after the ruling. The tariff saga is far from over, but the Supreme Court's decision this month has underscored ongoing tensions over the bounds of executive power become fodder for debate over congressional prerogatives in setting foreign policy.

Capitol Hill also saw significant activity around the long-overdue reauthorization of the federal Farm Bill, with the House Agriculture Committee releasing the text for the *Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026* and scheduling its initial markup for early March. The draft legislation, unveiled this month and spanning hundreds of pages, seeks to reauthorize core farm safety net, risk management, nutrition, conservation, and rural development programs that have not been comprehensively updated since the 2018 bill's expiration and multiple short-term extensions. The release drew both praise and criticism over crop innovation, cost pressures, trade disruptions, and structural challenges facing family farms and ranches. With amendments already filed by members from both parties, committee members are bracing for extensive debate during the markup process.

Beyond the Farm Bill, policymakers are awaiting the release of legislative language on several other major packages, including reauthorizations on surface transportation and water resource development. Lawmakers also spent much of the month bracing for potential military escalation with Iran, as tensions in the region and the eventual US-Israeli attack prompted renewed conversations about Congress's war powers authorities and the scope of executive action absent explicit authorization. Members in both parties signaled over the weekend an expectation to vote on a war powers resolution in early March, setting up another possible institutional clash between the legislative and executive branches.

In short, February amounted to a textbook illustration of constitutional structure in motion. The Supreme Court's tariff ruling reinforced judicial checks on executive authority over trade, while debates over potential military action toward Iran revived perennial questions about Article I and Article II war powers. At the same time, the SAVE Act fight has centered on the balance between federal authority and state control over election administration, raising federalism concerns alongside partisan ones. Even the DHS funding impasse reflects Congress's most

fundamental constitutional power, the power of the purse, being used as leverage in a broader policy dispute. February was not only busy, but served as a demonstration of separation of powers, federalism, and institutional rivalry playing out throughout the month.

### **Medicare Advantage Insurers Push on Payment Adjustment**

Medicare Advantage insurers are pressing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reconsider its proposed 0.09% payment increase for 2027, arguing the adjustment severely underestimates rising medical costs. The modest bump, roughly \$700 million, came as a surprise after the Donald Trump administration approved a \$25 billion increase for 2026, raising expectations that more generous rate hikes would continue. Instead, insurers say the proposed 2027 rate would effectively amount to flat funding, forcing plans to scale back benefits or raise premiums for millions of seniors.

Industry groups including AHIP and the Better Medicare Alliance argue CMS's projections are inconsistent. While the agency estimates Medicare spending will grow about 5 percent in 2027, broader national health expenditure data released earlier this year projects closer to 9 percent growth. Insurers contend that failing to match those trends amounts to a de facto pay cut. An analysis cited by AHIP found the proposal could reduce rebate dollars by 15 percent, potentially increasing premiums by about \$23 per month for some enrollees. UnitedHealth Group estimates benefit reductions could total roughly \$600 annually per enrollee if the proposal stands.

A central dispute involves CMS's risk adjustment model. The agency excluded unusually high 2024 spending on skin substitutes when setting 2027 benchmarks but retained that same spending in its risk model calculations. Insurers argue this inconsistency artificially inflates cost assumptions and could distort payments for chronic conditions such as diabetes and liver disease. Plans are urging CMS to revise its methodology, delay changes to the risk model, or phase them in gradually. The agency is expected to finalize the payment notice in early April.

### **SBA Tightens Guidelines for 7(a) Loans, Excluding Non-Citizens**

The Small Business Administration has issued new guidance requiring that 100 percent of owners of businesses applying for its flagship 7(a) loan program be US citizens or US nationals residing in the US. Effective March 1, the policy rescinds a December rule that allowed up to 5 percent foreign ownership, including by green card holders. Under the new standard, lawful permanent residents are no longer eligible to hold any ownership stake in a business seeking an SBA-backed 7(a) or 504 loan. The move aligns with a January 2025 executive order from Donald Trump directing agencies to strictly enforce immigration laws.

Supporters argue the change tightens oversight after concerns about lax standards and missing funds. Roger Williams, chair of the House Small Business Committee, acknowledged it is a "tough thing" but suggested stricter guardrails are necessary. SBA officials say the agency remains focused on driving economic growth for American citizens and could expand lending capacity if Congress increases loan limits.

Democrats and small business advocates strongly oppose the shift. Ed Markey and Nydia Velázquez criticized the policy as exclusionary and harmful to immigrant entrepreneurs.

Advocacy groups including Small Business Majority and CAMEO Network warn it could restrict access to capital at a time when small firms face higher costs from tariffs, health care, and inflation. In 2025 alone, the SBA approved more than 68,000 7(a) loans totaling \$33.8 billion, underscoring the program's central role in small business financing.

### **Small Businesses Seek Tariff Refunds After SCOTUS Ruling**

A coalition of small businesses has asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to expedite action that would allow the Trump administration to begin refunding tariffs the Supreme Court of the United States recently ruled were unlawfully imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The companies, which were among the first to challenge Donald Trump's use of the 1977 emergency powers statute to levy broad import tariffs, said they are seeking swift judicial action after administration officials indicated refunds would not be issued unless specifically ordered by the courts.

The businesses simultaneously filed a motion with the U.S. Court of International Trade, requesting permanent injunctive relief to bar further enforcement of the tariffs and to compel the government to initiate a refund process with interest. The trade court had previously ruled that Trump exceeded his authority under IEEPA and directed the administration to prepare refund guidance, but that order was paused pending appeals. While the Supreme Court affirmed that the tariffs were unlawful, it left the mechanics of refunds to lower courts. The plaintiffs argue that each day without repayment harms their operations and that a clear refund framework would also streamline claims from more than 900 related cases now pending before the trade court.

### **Congress Looks to Small Business Innovation Reauthorization**

Joni Ernst and Ed Markey have introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the \$6 billion Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, five months after the initiatives lapsed amid disputes over national security safeguards. The programs provide early-stage federal funding to US-owned, for-profit small businesses with fewer than 500 employees to help commercialize emerging technologies.

The lapse stemmed largely from concerns about potential Chinese influence and whether some awardees were repeatedly receiving grants without developing sustainable businesses. Ernst had pushed for tighter guardrails to prevent funds from reaching foreign adversaries or being cycled to underperforming firms. The newly negotiated bill would reauthorize the programs for five years and introduce several reforms, including enhanced due diligence requirements, expanded scrutiny of foreign security risks, and authority for SBIR offices to cap annual applications. It would also require measurable progress benchmarks tied to a project's development stage.

The urgency intensified after the Defense Department's Office for Small Business Innovation warned it might begin winding down operations and reallocating remaining funds from the roughly \$3 billion it distributes annually through the programs. The agreement has backing from key House lawmakers, including Roger Williams, Nydia Velázquez, Brian Babin, and Zoe Lofgren. Senate leaders hope to pass the bill by unanimous consent and quickly send it to the president for signature.

## DOL Rolls Out Small Business AI Framework

In late February, the Department of Labor released a new artificial intelligence literacy framework designed to help states and local workforce boards prepare workers for the rapid integration of AI across industries. Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer said the guidance is intended to ensure American workers can benefit from AI-driven economic growth. The framework outlines five core components of AI literacy, including understanding practical workplace applications, using AI tools responsibly, and recognizing ethical and data security risks. It encourages training providers to emphasize hands-on, contextual instruction and to pair technical AI knowledge with human-centered skills such as judgment, adaptability, and critical thinking.

The guidance builds on a broader AI workforce strategy under Donald Trump, including a multi-agency initiative launched last year to expand skills development nationwide. That effort has included attempts to broaden access to programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, though Congress has struggled to reauthorize the statute. Trump has also moved to limit state-level AI regulation through an executive order preempting certain state laws. At the same time, some economists, including former Federal Reserve Chairs Janet Yellen and Ben Bernanke, have urged the department to strengthen federal data collection, warning that the government lacks sufficient tools to track how AI is reshaping employment and wages.

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

### H.R. 20

Richard L. Trumka  
Protecting the Right to  
Organize Act of 2025

Pro Title: PRO Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill amends the National Labor Relations Act and related laws to strengthen employee rights, including expanded definitions of employer and employee, new protections against unfair labor practices, and provisions for electronic voting in union elections.

**Introduced:** 03/05/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Bobby Scott VA-03

**Latest Actions:**

- 03/05/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.
- 03/05/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Education and the Workforce Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

### H.R. 90

Health Coverage Choice  
Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Health Coverage Choice Act defines short-term limited duration insurance as coverage with an expiration date less than 12 months after the original effective date and a total duration of no more than three years, including renewals or extensions.

**Introduced:** 01/03/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Andy Biggs AZ-05

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/03/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- 01/03/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Energy and Commerce Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 379

Healthcare Freedom and  
Choice Act

No Priority    No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Healthcare Freedom and Choice Act nullifies a federal rule on short-term, limited-duration insurance and independent, noncoordinated excepted benefits coverage published in April 2024.

**Introduced:** 01/14/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Buddy Carter GA-01

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/14/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- 01/14/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- 01/14/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

**Committees:** House Education and the Workforce Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Ways and Means Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 400

**AI Summary:** The bill prohibits U.S. contributions to the United Nations Human Rights Council by withholding a portion of annual UN budget funds based on the allocated share for the council and bans voluntary contributions.

**Introduced:** 01/14/2025

No taxpayer funding for  
United Nations Human  
Rights Council Act

No Priority No Stance

**Sponsor:** Rep. Chip Roy TX-21

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/14/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- 01/14/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Foreign Affairs Committee

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CONGRESS

## H.R. 421

Small Business  
Regulatory Flexibility  
Improvements Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill enhances the Regulatory Flexibility Act by expanding coverage to include rules with indirect economic effects, beneficial impacts, and rules affecting tribal organizations and land management plans, while requiring detailed analyses and public participation.

**Introduced:** 01/15/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Ben Cline VA-06

**Latest Actions:**

- 06/10/2025 - Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute by the Yeas and Nays: 13 - 12.
- 06/10/2025 - Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- 01/15/2025 - Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

**Committees:** House Judiciary Committee, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, House Small Business Committee

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CONGRESS

## H.R. 703

Main Street Tax Certainty  
Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Main Street Tax Certainty Act makes permanent the qualified business income deduction under the Internal Revenue Code, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

**Introduced:** 01/23/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Lloyd Smucker PA-11

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/23/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- 01/23/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Ways and Means Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 789

Transparency and  
Predictability in Small  
Business Opportunities  
Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The act requires the Small Business Administration to disclose reasons for cancelled solicitations and provide assistance to small businesses affected by cancellations, including referrals to similar contracting opportunities.

**Introduced:** 01/28/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. George Latimer NY-16

**Latest Actions:**

- 06/04/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 06/03/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- 06/03/2025 - On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H2396)

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 804

Rural Small Business  
Resilience Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Rural Small Business Resilience Act requires the Small Business Administration to ensure rural individuals affected by disasters have full access to assistance through targeted outreach and marketing.

**Introduced:** 01/28/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Kelly Morrison MN-03

**Latest Actions:**

- 02/26/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 02/26/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- 02/26/2025 - On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 415 - 8 (Roll no. 49). (text: 2/24/2025 CR H746)

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 832

### Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2025 clarifies the Office of Advocacy's primary functions and duties, including its role in the international economy and representing small businesses before foreign governments and international entities.

**Introduced:** 01/31/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Roger Williams TX-25

**Latest Actions:**

- 02/25/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 02/25/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- 02/25/2025 - On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 396 - 15 (Roll no. 44). (text: CR H739)

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 833

### Educational Choice for Children Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill provides a tax credit for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations that award scholarships to low-income elementary and secondary students, with limits on contribution amounts and a volume cap to prevent overuse.

**Introduced:** 01/31/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Adrian Smith NE-03

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/31/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- 01/31/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- 01/31/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Education and the Workforce Committee, House Ways and Means Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 935

### Health Care Workforce Innovation Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Health Care Workforce Innovation Act of 2025 establishes a program to fund community-driven, innovative training models for allied health professionals, prioritizing underserved and rural areas.

**Introduced:** 02/04/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Andrew Garbarino NY-02

**Latest Actions:**

- 02/04/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- 02/04/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Energy and Commerce Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 976

### 1071 Repeal to Protect Small Business Lending Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** This bill repeals data collection requirements for small business loans under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, aiming to reduce regulatory burdens on financial institutions and improve small business access to credit.

**Introduced:** 02/04/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Roger Williams TX-25

**Latest Actions:**

- 05/06/2025 - Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 65.
- 05/06/2025 - Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Financial Services. H. Rept. 119-91.
- 05/06/2025 - POLITICO Pro - The House Financial Services Committee voted along party lines Wednesday to advance legislation that would repeal a CFPB rule requiring lenders to report demographic data on small-business loan recipients. The bureau finalized a rule last March under Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank act forcing financial institutions to turn over data about the race, ethnicity and gender of the loan recipients, in addition to information on lending decisions and the price of credit. Republicans say the regulatory compliance costs spurred by the rule will force small lenders to pull out of small business lending. House Small Business Chair Roger Williams (R-Texas), who introduced the rollback and also sits on Financial Services, said the rule “represents yet another overreach that harms Main Street.”

**Committees:** House Financial Services Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 1163

Prove It Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Prove It Act of 2025 requires greater transparency in federal regulatory decisions by mandating initial regulatory flexibility analyses that consider indirect costs to small businesses and establishing review procedures for such analyses, including petitions and full reviews by the Small Business Administration's Chief Counsel.

**Introduced:** 02/10/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Finstad MN-01

**Latest Actions:**

- 05/21/2025 - Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute by the Yeas and Nays: 14 - 12.
- 05/21/2025 - Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Small Business. H. Rept. 119-108, Part I.
- 05/21/2025 - Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held

**Committees:** House Judiciary Committee, House Small Business Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 1642

Connecting Small  
Businesses with Career  
and Technical Education  
Graduates Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The act amends the Small Business Act to include requirements for small business development centers and women's business centers to engage with career and technical education graduates, promoting hiring and business development connections.

**Introduced:** 02/26/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Roger Williams TX-25

**Latest Actions:**

- 06/04/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 06/03/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- 06/03/2025 - On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 396 - 5 (Roll no. 146). (text: CR H2392)

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 2066

**AI Summary:** The Investing in All of America Act of 2025 modifies the Small Business Investment Act to exclude certain government-funded investments from leverage limits for small businesses in rural, low-income, or critical technology areas.

Investing in All of  
America Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**Introduced:** 03/11/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Dan Meuser PA-09

**Latest Actions:**

- 12/02/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 12/01/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- 12/01/2025 - On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H4918)

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

H.R. 2094

HELPER Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill establishes a mortgage insurance program for first responders, including law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, and teachers, allowing them to purchase or repair homes with no down payment and no monthly insurance premiums.

**Introduced:** 03/14/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Rutherford FL-05

**Latest Actions:**

- 03/14/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.
- 03/14/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Financial Services Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

H.R. 2520

César E. Chávez and the  
Farmworker Movement  
National Historical Park  
Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill establishes the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in California and Arizona, redesignating the existing César E. Chávez National Monument and including additional significant sites related to the farmworker movement.

**Introduced:** 03/31/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Raul Ruiz CA-25

**Latest Actions:**

- 03/31/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- 03/31/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Natural Resources Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 2571

### Self-Insurance Protection Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill amends the ERISA to exclude certain medical stop-loss insurance from the definition of health insurance coverage for self-insured group health plans, and preempts state laws that restrict such insurance.

**Introduced:** 04/01/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Bob Onder MO-03

**Latest Actions:**

- 12/15/2025 - Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 356.
- 12/15/2025 - Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Education and Workforce. H. Rept. 119-408.
- 06/25/2025 - Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 21 - 15.

**Committees:** House Education and the Workforce Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 2952

### SALT Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The SALT Act amends the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to clarify reporting requirements for payments, loans, and agreements related to employee organizing and labor dispute information.

**Introduced:** 04/17/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Burgess Owens UT-04

**Latest Actions:**

- 04/17/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.
- 04/17/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Education and the Workforce Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 2965

### Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Small Business Regulatory Reduction Act of 2025 requires the Small Business Administration Administrator to ensure the small business regulatory budget for the SBA is not greater than zero, and mandates an annual report on federal rules impacting small businesses.

**Introduced:** 04/17/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Beth Van Duyne TX-24

**Latest Actions:**

- 12/04/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

- 12/03/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- 12/03/2025 - On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 223 - 190 (Roll no. 310). (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR 12/02/2025 H4987)

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

FEDERAL - 119TH  
CONGRESS

## H.R. 3174

Made in America  
Manufacturing Finance  
Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The act increases loan limits for small manufacturers to \$7,500,000 or \$9,000,000 if the loan exceeds \$10,000,000, with specific provisions for export-related financing.

**Introduced:** 05/01/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Roger Williams TX-25

**Latest Actions:**

- 12/04/2025 - Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 283.
- 12/04/2025 - Senate vitiated previous action of 12/02/2025 by Unanimous Consent.
- 12/02/2025 - Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee, Senate Finance Committee

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## H.R. 3736

The Small Business  
Representation in  
Contracting Rulemaking  
Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill adds the Small Business Administration Administrator to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council and requires a report on personnel, resources, and policy recommendations within 90 days of enactment.

**Introduced:** 06/04/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Lateefah Simon CA-12

**Latest Actions:**

- 06/04/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- 06/04/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be

subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

- 06/04/2025 - Introduced in House

**Committees:** House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, House Small Business Committee

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## H.R. 4549

Office of Rural Affairs  
Enhancement Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration is amended to clarify its responsibilities, including appointing an Assistant Administrator with rural business experience and expanding outreach through webinars and events.

**Introduced:** 07/21/2025

**Sponsor:** Rep. Maggie Goodlander NH-02

**Latest Actions:**

- 12/02/2025 - Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 282.
- 12/01/2025 - Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- 12/01/2025 - On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H4916-4917)

**Committees:** House Small Business Committee

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## S. 202

Helping Small Businesses  
THRIVE Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill establishes a pilot program allowing eligible small businesses to purchase commodity futures to hedge against price volatility, with specific rules on covered commodities, eligibility, and program administration.

**Introduced:** 01/23/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Jeanne Shaheen NH

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/23/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 01/23/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

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## S. 213

### Main Street Tax Certainty Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Main Street Tax Certainty Act makes permanent the qualified business income deduction under Section 199A of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Introduced:** 01/23/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Steve Daines MT

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/23/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
- 01/23/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Finance Committee

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## S. 292

### Educational Choice for Children Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill provides a tax credit for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations that award scholarships to low-income elementary and secondary students, with limits on contribution amounts and a volume cap to prevent overuse.

**Introduced:** 01/29/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Bill Cassidy LA

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/29/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
- 01/29/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Finance Committee

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## S. 400

### Paid Family and Medical Leave Tax Credit Extension and Enhancement Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill enhances the paid family and medical leave credit by allowing employers to choose between a wage-based or insurance-premium-based credit, with adjustments for aggregation rules and state-mandated leave, and includes outreach requirements for small businesses and tax professionals.

**Introduced:** 02/04/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Deb Fischer NE

**Latest Actions:**

- 02/04/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
- 02/04/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Finance Committee

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## S. 852

Richard L. Trumka  
Protecting the Right to  
Organize Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill amends key labor laws to strengthen employee rights, including defining joint employers, clarifying employee status, expanding protections against unfair labor practices, and permitting fair share agreements.

**Introduced:** 03/05/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Bernie Sanders VT

**Latest Actions:**

- 03/05/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
- 03/05/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

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## S. 853

INNOVATE Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The INNOVATE Act enhances SBIR and STTR programs by improving small business success, expanding Phase II funding, reducing administrative burdens, strengthening security measures, and streamlining commercialization standards.

**Introduced:** 03/05/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Joni Ernst IA

**Latest Actions:**

- 07/23/2025 - Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.
- 03/05/2025 - Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.
- 03/05/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

**Committees:** Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

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## S. 978

HELPER Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill establishes a mortgage insurance program for first responders, including law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, and teachers, allowing them to purchase or repair homes with no down payment and no monthly insurance premiums.

**Introduced:** 03/12/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Ashley Moody FL

**Latest Actions:**

- 03/12/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
- 03/12/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

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## S. 1048

Connecting Small  
Businesses with Career  
and Technical Education  
Graduates Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill amends the Small Business Act to require Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers to assist graduates of career and technical education programs in hiring and starting small businesses.

**Introduced:** 03/13/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Roger Marshall KS

**Latest Actions:**

- 03/13/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 03/13/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

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## S. 1555

Made in America  
Manufacturing Finance  
Act of 2025

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill increases loan limits for small manufacturers, defining them as businesses in sectors 31, 32, or 33 of the NAICS with all production facilities in the U.S., and raises loan caps under the Small Business Act and Small Business Investment Act.

**Introduced:** 05/01/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Joni Ernst IA

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/14/2026 - Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.
- 09/17/2025 - Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.
- 07/29/2025 - Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 130.

**Committees:** Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

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**AI Summary:** The SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2025 extends program authority, increases agency funding, enhances

## S. 1573

SBIR/STTR

Reauthorization Act of  
2025

No Priority No Stance

outreach to underserved groups, improves commercialization support, and includes safeguards for small businesses majority-owned by foreign entities or private equity firms.

**Introduced:** 05/01/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Ed Markey MA

**Latest Actions:**

- 05/01/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 05/01/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee

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## S. 3111

Small Businesses before  
Bureaucrats Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The bill increases the National Labor Relations Board's dollar threshold for jurisdiction over labor disputes, with the threshold rising by a factor of ten for 2026 and thereafter adjusted annually using the Personal Consumption Expenditure Per Capita Index.

**Introduced:** 11/05/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Markwayne Mullin OK

**Latest Actions:**

- 11/05/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
- 11/05/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

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## S. 3116

Fairness in Filing Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The Fairness in Filing Act restricts unfair labor practice charges to those filed in good faith and with proper documentation or certification, and imposes fines for bad faith or frivolous filings.

**Introduced:** 11/06/2025

**Sponsor:** Sen. Bill Cassidy LA

**Latest Actions:**

- 11/06/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
- 11/06/2025 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

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## S. 3586

AI for Mainstreet Act

No Priority No Stance

**AI Summary:** The AI for Mainstreet Act requires small business development centers to provide guidance on artificial intelligence use, including best practices and cybersecurity, and to conduct outreach to small businesses.

**Introduced:** 01/07/2026

**Sponsor:** Sen. Todd Young IN

**Latest Actions:**

- 01/07/2026 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 01/07/2026 - Introduced in Senate

**Committees:** Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee