

Company program, the Microloan program and the Small Business Investment Company [SBIC] program.

In addition, the bill will reauthorize the technical assistance and procurement programs of the SBA—the Service Core of Retired Executives [SCORES], the Women's Business Center program, the Small Business Development Center [SBDC] program, the Competitiveness Demonstration program, and other.

This legislation also changes and improves various programs, specifically modifying the Section 504 Preferred Certified Lender Program [PCLP], the SBIC program, the Women's Business Center program, and the SBDC program.

The programs of the Small Business Administration annually provide over \$14 billion of financial assistance to over 100,000 small businesses all across the United States. These financial programs remedy shortfalls in access to credit and capital for small businesses that are in need because of unfortunate imperfections in our national economy. By assuring financial assistance for amounts as small as \$500 to as much as \$1,250,000, the SBA and its private sector partners—bank and non-bank lenders, surety bond insurers, certified development companies, microlenders, and small business investment companies—provide a vital impetus to the small business sector of the economy. The SBA also provides hundreds of millions of dollars in vital disaster assistance to small businesses and homeowners every year.

H.R. 2261 reflects the committee's dedication to and support for these programs and the belief that they are not only necessary but also constantly in need of refinement and improvement as the economy shifts and changes. The bill includes not only the basic reauthorization language necessary to continue regular operations but also changes to the underlying program structures.

The bill includes significant improvements in the Preferred Certified Lender Program of the Section 504 Certified Development Company Program. These changes serve to help implement the committee's goals of increased reliance on private sector lending partners. The committee seeks to both enable the certified development companies to take additional responsibility for servicing, liquidation, and litigation of defaulted loans, and to improve the recoveries for this program.

Committee hearings revealed that recoveries are, in fact, the largest single factor in the increased subsidy cost of the 504 program. The committee continues to be concerned over the subsidy estimates for the 7(a) and 504 programs and makes these changes in the 504 program in order to encourage private sector participation in the liquidation process.

H.R. 2261 also continues the committee's work on improving the Small Business Investment Company program. Last year this program underwent significant changes, and this year the committee seeks to build on those improvements by providing SBIC's with increased flexibility and some responsiveness in order to better allow the SBIC's to interact in the marketplace and thereby reduce risks of loss.

The bill also reauthorizes and improves the Microloan program. Begun in 1991, this program has served the smallest and often least noticed segment of the small business community. The committee has recognized the ef-

ficacy of this program and changed it from demonstration to permanent program status.

In addition to financial assistance, the SBA also provides technical and managerial advice and assistance to hundreds of thousands of small businesses every year through the small business development centers, the women's business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives. The committee reauthorizes these programs in H.R. 2261 and makes some valuable improvements to both the Women's Business Center and Small Business Development Center programs.

The measure before us has two additional components that were added to this legislation since our committee reported it. These additional elements have been added as a result of bipartisan efforts; and, in fact, have involved the collective work of multiple committees. Title VI of H.R. 2261, as amended, contains a number of provisions which are designed to assist the Federal Government in better serving service disabled veterans and small businesses owned by service disabled veterans. These measures are the product of bipartisan efforts by myself and our committee's ranking member, working together with the chairman of the Rules Committee and the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Title VII of this legislation is also the product of a bipartisan and multicommittee effort between the Small Business Committee and the Science Committee. Title VII contains H.R. 2429, as reported by the Committee on Science, which is a 3-year reauthorization of the Pilot Small Business Technology Transfer [STTR] program. Building upon the established model of the Small Business Innovation Research [SBIR] program, the STTR Program provides the statutory basis for structured collaborations between small technology entrepreneurs and nonprofit research institutions, such as universities or Federal-funded research and development centers [FFRDC's], to foster commercialization of the results of federally sponsored research.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2261 is the product of bipartisan efforts in our committee to reauthorize the Small Business Administration through fiscal year 2000. It also reflects the efforts of other individuals and committees and their staffs. I would like to thank Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the chairman of the Committee on Science, and Mr. BROWN, his ranking member, for their work on H.R. 2429, which has become title VII of this legislation. I would also like to express my appreciation to their staff who worked on this. I would also like to thank Mr. STUMP, the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Mr. SOLOMON, the chairman of the Rules Committee, along with their staffs, for their help in working on title VI of this legislation. I would also like to thank our committee's ranking member, Mr. LAFALCE, for all of his help in helping to craft this legislation and assisting in bringing it to this floor. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Small Business Committee staff who worked on this legislation: Emily Murphy, Mary McKenzie, Charles "Tee" Rowe, and Harry Katrichis for the majority, and Jeanne Roslanowick, Steve McSpadden, and Tom Powers for the minority.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the bipartisan bill H.R. 2429 will be included as an amendment to the small business reauthorization bill. I would like to thank

Chairman SENSENBRENNER; ranking member, Mr. BROWN; the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Technology, Mr. GORDON; Mr. BARTLETT, as well as the other members from the Committee on Small Business who have cosponsored H.R. 2429.

The STTR program expires on September 30th of this year. H.R. 2429 will reauthorize STTR at its current set-aside level through fiscal year 2000. This will put STTR on the same timeline as its parent program, the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

STTR fosters collaboration between small businesses and research institutions to develop high-technology projects that can one day reach the marketplace or be used by the Federal Government. Since its inception, STTR has made nearly 800 awards totaling over \$115 million. Of those totals, 42 awards for \$4.8 million have gone to Maryland small businesses.

As Chairman SENSENBRENNER has stated, H.R. 2429 addresses some important concerns regarding the STTR Program, including establishing goals for the program, and establishing an outreach program to increase the participation of those states that have been under-represented in the STTR Program.

STTR began in 1994. Very few ideas have even reached the phase II level. Because of its infancy, it was difficult to determine whether STTR was a success or not. I hope that—with the changes made by H.R. 2429—along with 3 more years of data, Congress will have a better idea of the effectiveness and success of the program when its reauthorization expires in the year 2000.

Mr. TALENT. I have no further speakers on this side, Mr. Speaker, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TALENT] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2261, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2261, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

CHILD SUPPORT INCENTIVE ACT OF 1997

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2487) to improve the effectiveness