

staying open or closing forever. The legislation before us will ensure entrepreneurs can receive the help they need when times are tough.

I commend Mr. GRIFFITH, who is the sponsor of this bill, for his work on this important legislation.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3743, the Small Business Disaster Readiness and Reform Act of 2009. I would like to thank the chairwoman and the gentleman from Alabama for working very hard, obviously, in the committee to bring this bill to the floor.

In 2008, Congress took action to address the inadequate response that the Small Business Administration had to the gulf hurricanes of 2005. The expectation was that those changes would alleviate many of the problems identified by small business owners, the Government Accountability Office, and the SBA found in response to Hurricane Katrina. However, GAO testified before the committee this summer and found that the SBA implementation of those changes had not been accomplished. That means that the SBA may not be able to respond adequately to a major disaster like Hurricane Katrina.

A key element noted by GAO is the need for coordination. The bill requires the establishment of regional working groups to develop regional disaster plans in addition to the national plan that was required by Congress last year. This is sensible because some areas of the country are more prone to hurricanes while others are more prone to flooding and others to even things like wildfires. The national plan simply cannot cover with any specificity the range of disasters to which the SBA must respond. This should improve the overall emergency preparedness of the SBA.

GAO and the committee remain concerned about the difficulty that small businesses have in filing applications for disaster loans. H.R. 3743 recognizes that the SBA entrepreneur development partners can assist small business owners that need to file an application for a disaster loan and authorizes additional funds to these partners to provide such assistance to those seeking to recover from a disaster.

Another primary focus of the committee's examination of the disaster loan process has been the disbursement process. Although changes were made in 2008, further refinements are needed to ensure that small businesses have access to funds needed to restore their operations and help their communities recover from the disaster.

I would reiterate that this bill before us today builds on important work already done by Congress and will provide additional assurances that the SBA is capable of responding to the next natural or manmade disaster.

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

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be down here on the suspension calendar to talk about the importance of the emergency response of small business centers. But you know what the real emergency response to small business should be is the assault on the workers that's coming because of this health care bill.

Let me talk about the reports today: 10.2 percent unemployment. "The unemployment rate spiked to its highest level since 1983, much worse than expected as employers continue to trim jobs despite other signs of growth."

And do you know what the real catastrophe is? We are doing nothing here to help create jobs. In fact, what we're doing, based upon the Democratic bill, H.R. 3962, will destroy jobs. Here are some of the job-destruction aspects of this health care bill:

Tax on jobs will increase unemployment. The Democrat bill would impose \$150 billion in taxes on businesses who can't afford to finance their workers' health coverage. Guess what they'll do. They're going to lay off people to be able to afford the taxes to provide the few remaining employees jobs.

The CBO confirmed this tax on jobs would reduce the hiring of low-wage workers and could also lead to wage stagnation as wage compensation is diverted to comply with new Federal taxes and mandates. A model developed by the chief Obama adviser Christina Romer indicates that as many as 5.5 million jobs could be lost. That's not us. That's not the Small Business Committee. That's not the ranking member. That's the administration that's saying 5.5 million jobs could be lost.

Hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes on businesses. In addition to the tax on jobs, H.R. 3962 includes nearly half a trillion dollars in other taxes, including a surtax more than half of whose intended targets are small businesses.

We would be hoping that the Small Business Committee would come down here and say let's don't tax small business with this health care bill. Let's incentivize small businesses to provide health care coverage to their employees.

That's what we'll do on the House version in the amendment offered, once the bill comes to the floor, is we're going to incentivize small businesses to stay in business, keep their employees, and provide health insurance coverage.

In addition to the tax on jobs, the Democrat bill includes a half trillion dollars in other taxes including, as I said before, a surtax. More than half of those intended targets are small businesses.

This is the disaster that we ought to be talking about here. This is a problem that we have with this Congress, the job-destroying plans coming to the floor of the House. Imposing a total of \$729.5 billion in higher taxes on a struggling economy will be a recipe for years, if not decades, of prolonged stagnation.

I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, 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. 3743, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1845) to amend the Small Business Act to modernize Small Business Development Centers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1845

*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 "Small Business Development Centers Modernization Act of 2009".

#### SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS OPERATIONAL CHANGES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section, not more than \$500,000 may be used by the Administration to pay expenses enumerated in subparagraphs (B) through (D) of section 20(a)(1).”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SEC. 3. ACCESS TO CREDIT AND CAPITAL.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SEC. 4. PROCUREMENT TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE.

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

“(p) **PROCUREMENT TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE.**—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SEC. 5. GREEN ENTREPRENEURS TRAINING PROGRAM.

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

“(q) **GREEN ENTREPRENEURS TRAINING PROGRAM.**—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SEC. 6. MAIN STREET STABILIZATION.

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

“(r) **MAIN STREET STABILIZATION.**—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON PROGRAM INCOME BEING USED AS MATCHING FUNDS.

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

**SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

**SEC. 9. SMALL MANUFACTURERS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

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

“(s) **SMALL MANUFACTURERS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) 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 may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1845, as amended.

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.

I rise in support of H.R. 1845, introduced by Representative SCHOCK, which would modernize the Nation's Small Business Development Centers, and I would like to take the opportunity to commend the gentleman for his great work on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in today's challenging business environment, entrepreneurial assistance is a critical tool for the success of a small business. After all, even in good times, starting and running a small business is no easy lift. In fact, businesses that receive this kind of help are twice as likely to succeed.

During economic downturns, Small Business Development Centers are critical to help aspiring entrepreneurs get their ventures off the ground. The SBDC program is an important resource for both new entrepreneurs and more established small business owners. H.R. 1845 builds on this successful model, improving existing initiatives and giving entrepreneurs the tools they need to flourish.

In this bill, we streamline the SBDC program, taking important steps to develop new service offerings for small businesses. One example is the bill's access to capital program for aspiring entrepreneurs that need to secure capital and repair damaged credit. By connecting these entrepreneurs and displaced workers with seed money, this initiative will help get more ventures off the ground. For more established firms, this legislation will help businesses tap into the booming Federal marketplace.

Billions of stimulus dollars are now in play, making the Federal Government an even better customer for small businesses. In order to assist small firms in winning Federal contracts, this bill establishes a new procurement program. This will enable SBDCs to work with local agencies in identifying suitable small business contracts.

Mr. Speaker, SBDCs are important resources for expert information and business development assistance for small firms. This legislation will make sure they are running at full capacity, giving entrepreneurs powerful tools to invest in their own success. With a renewed emphasis on entrepreneurship, the Nation can emerge from the current recession stronger and more resilient. This bill is an important step in allowing that to happen, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1845, legislation that I introduced earlier this year to help modernize the Small Business Development Center programs, often referred to as SBDCs, with the resources they need to deal with increased demand and usage during this difficult time.

First, I would like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for her leadership

and work on this important Small Business Committee and also Ranking Member GRAVES for working together with me to move this important piece of legislation through the committee and now here on the House floor.

Nationwide, the over 1,000 SBDCs serve as important and informative resources for growing small businesses. SBDCs provide emerging entrepreneurs with the tools needed to successfully take their small business concepts into reality. Additionally, they provide existing small business owners with important financial and budgeting consulting to assist in long-term growth and management. The investments made into the SBDC network provide a cost-effective way to help grow the economy while also enhancing American competitiveness.

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Let us look at the facts. A new business is opened by an SBDC client every 41 minutes. A new job is created in the United States by an SBDC client every 7 minutes. And, in 2007, Small Business Development Center clients created over 70,000 new full-time jobs. With the recent unemployment figures over 10 percent nationwide, more and more small businesses are investing and visiting their local SBDCs seeking advice on how to best manage their companies.

As such, I am pleased this House is considering H.R. 1845 today. This legislation will do a great deal to continue to help develop the resources and programs our small business owners depend on. Additionally, H.R. 1845 makes several operational changes to the SBDC program to eliminate waste, fraud, and duplicative programs within the SBDCs.

Lastly, I am encouraged by the provisions in this legislation which will reward SBDCs which focus on access to credit and capital for small businesses. Everyone understands that the economic rebound for our country will be directly related to the growth and fortune of our Nation's small businesses. Their access to credit and capital is essential not only to keep them in business today but also for future expansion, growth, and investment within their business.

This body voices its continued backing of the important support system on which our Nation's small businesses truly rely by passing H.R. 1845. I urge passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for such time as he may consume.

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I again come down on the floor. It is a good time to talk about jobs and the economy and the importance of what the

Small Business Committee here does. I applaud my colleague from Illinois for addressing the Small Business Development Centers because, guess what, they are going to be needed. They are going to be needed to help train and find jobs when we have this massive loss of jobs that will occur because of the Democrat health care bill.

Don't take my word for it, take the word of Christina Romer, who is the adviser to the President. She says that the Democrat bill would impose \$150 billion in taxes on businesses who cannot afford to finance their workers' health coverage. So what will happen, these employees will be laid off. People will lose their jobs to try to make the payment on the new tax that is going to be burdened by this bill.

CBO confirmed this tax on jobs could reduce, and CBO is the Congressional Budget Office, nonpartisan, they confirmed this tax on jobs could reduce the hiring of low-wage workers and could also lead to wage stagnation as wage compensation is diverted to comply with new Federal taxes and mandates. Roemer indicates that as many as 5.5 million jobs could be lost. So we are really going to need these SBDCs, and we will need them to be current to help find positions for these displaced workers.

This Democrat Affordable Health Care for America Act will destroy jobs, hundreds of billions in taxes on businesses. In addition to the tax on jobs, the Democrat health care bill includes nearly half a trillion dollars in other taxes, including a surtax, more than half of those whose intended targets are small businesses.

So as the Small Business Committee is bringing bills to the floor, they ought to be worried about what is reported today, 10.2 percent unemployment. But, no, we are not talking about how to create jobs on the floor of this House. We are talking about how to destroy jobs by new regulations, new taxation, hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes on businesses. H.R. 3962, the Democrat health bill, includes nearly half a trillion dollars in other taxes, including a surtax, more than half whose intended targets are small businesses. Imposing a total of \$729.5 billion in higher taxes on a struggling economy would be a recipe for years, if not decades, of prolonged stagnation.

So I appreciate the time from my colleague. We are going to need these Small Business Development Centers because of the massive tax regulatory regime being passed by Democrats on the floor of this House which will continue to destroy jobs, not create jobs.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree, based on the current climate here in our country, it is always a good time to invest in our small businesses but especially now with unemployment at an all-time high. Once again, I appreciate the work of Members on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would yield to my other good friend from the great State of Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) for such time as he may consume.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today, we are considering a lot of bills, good bills, to help out small business people. But I find it ironic that at the same time we pass more programs and try to fund what is out there, the same Congress continues to pass, one after the other, job-killing bills. We can start with cap-and-trade that will kill millions and millions of jobs across this country.

The largest city in the congressional district I represent, Rockford, Illinois, is close to 17 percent unemployment. One out of four families in Rockford is on public assistance. No news has hit that city in a long time, but the news from Washington is we want to raise your taxes, give you more regulations, and here we are on the eve of passing one of the biggest small business job-killing bills, this massive so-called health care reform bill that will put between 4 and 5 million people out of work, small businesses.

There is something wrong in this city that says it wants to help the small business people and turns right around, and the very people that the majority in this Congress say that they want to help, they are hurting, making them bleed with regulation after regulation, tax increase after tax increase, mandate after mandate, penalty after penalty.

I was raised in small business. When I was 4, my father bought a small grocery store in the rough-and-tough part of Rockford, Illinois; and he personally grubstaked. That is, he gave credit to thousands of people coming in from the displaced persons camps of Eastern Europe and people coming from Arkansas with the massive crop failures. All we know is small business.

He went from the grocery store business into the drive-in restaurant business and the family Italian restaurant business. After awhile, my brother, who ran the restaurant business for 41 years, said, Donnie, all I do is work for the government and for higher insurance premiums.

He and the people and the rest of the Frankie Manzullos out there shouldn't have to go to another government agency and beg for help. This city should be recognizing the fact that the best way to help the small business people is not to suck \$544 billion in taxes from people working in small businesses. Because, Mr. Speaker, what we are doing here is, by raising taxes on these small business people, this money is going to the government which squanders it, as opposed to the money staying in the private sector, which is used to keep the businesses going, to nurture them, and create more businesses.

The city has it all wrong. No wonder the people of America are upset. No wonder there is a revolution going on, with the small businessmen saying, We

can't take it anymore. We don't want any more help from Washington. Just leave us alone.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is kind of ironic that the previous gentleman spoke about the impact of health care on small businesses, but for the 10-plus years that they were in the majority, we saw double digits in terms of premiums going up, and they didn't provide any vision, any leadership, any legislation to deal with the unsustainable health care costs that small businesses were suffering from.

And then, the gentlemen from Illinois, let me just remind him that last week we passed a bill, H.R. 3854, which provides \$44 billion in financing and investment for small businesses. It is quite ironic that he comes to the floor to speak on small businesses and how we are impacting small businesses, but let me remind that, in the last 10 years, the other side, all they cared about was providing tax breaks for the wealthiest people in this country, not for small businesses. And, today, we are passing four bills under suspension. In fact, more bills than he passed in the years that he was the chairman of the Small Business Committee.

I welcome the debate on health care, and for that we will have time tomorrow.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) for such time as he may consume.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, there is no irony here. When the Republicans controlled this body, on two different occasions we passed association health plans only to have them fail in the Senate because there weren't 60 votes.

And I believe on three different occasions when the Republicans controlled the House of Representatives, we passed meaningful medical liability reform. That wasn't even taken up in the Senate. It wasn't taken up in the Senate, even though the Republicans controlled the Senate because you needed 60 votes to get it through.

And we had to fight tooth and nail to eliminate the horrible death tax that destroyed small businesses. In fact, some of the statistics show that three out of four small businesses could not go down beyond three generations because of the confiscatory death tax. And farmers were losing their farms. I know. I practiced law in the country for 22 years, and I was there when one of the family farms had to be sold to pay for death tax.

We got those changes through. It was difficult, but we got those changes through.

And of course we know what is going to happen now. Neither the White House nor the Democratic leadership is interested in making sure that the death tax stays repealed in this country.

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These are all job killers for small business people.

It doesn't make sense for us to continue to pass bill after bill after bill to laud the efforts of the small business people of this country, to say that without the small businesses—the ones who produce more than 57 percent of all the employees in this country—why is it that they will be the beneficiaries of the lack of capital that is sucked up on \$454 billion worth of new taxes—yes, on those, the third wealthiest, if you want to call it that, that make more than \$250,000 a year?

But instead of paying money in taxes, they would be putting that money back into keeping their businesses going and helping their employees keep their jobs.

I have visited hundreds, hundreds of factories across the district that I represent, several parts of Illinois, talking to the people who own these factories, trying to find out what is it that they need so they can continue to be more productive. And what I hear from them is the fact that they want to be left alone by Washington. They look at what this cap-and-trade will do to them—and this is a valid debate, we're talking about helping small business people—but they look at what cap-and-trade will do to the factories, to the productivity, to push more jobs offshore.

In fact, we got a call from a national company that has employees all over the country that has a call center, a series of call centers. To keep the jobs in this country, they decided to close the physical facilities and to allow the people to work from home part-time to make those phone calls, to keep the call centers here in America as opposed to being exported overseas. The people from one of these call centers says, If this health bill passes mandating health insurance for part-time employees, it's easy for them, they will close their facilities, and 50,000 more jobs will be exported overseas.

This doesn't help the small businesses of this country. What we need is to start retracting these regulations. What we need to do is to start reducing the taxes. What we need to do is to make it easier for people to have the capital.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SCHOCK. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The gentleman from Illinois has 4½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from New York has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my good friend from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER).

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Thank you for yielding.

We have been led to believe that the AMA, the doctors, now support this health care bill that is before us today,

and the board of directors was somehow coerced to come out publicly and say they do. But the AMA House of Delegates Conference is convening today in Houston, Texas. It's made up of elected representatives from across the country. These representative doctors represent members of the AMA within their region. They meet to vote on policy issues affecting their doctors. They believe this was an unauthorized vote before the delegates arrived, that the board of directors should not have taken this vote.

Today, the AMA doctors are circulating a petition requesting a vote of "no confidence" against the board of directors of the AMA. I repeat again, the doctors and delegates of the AMA believe this vote of their board was unauthorized, it should not have taken place prior to their convening, and there is a petition being circulated today by doctors who are extremely angry that their board would have taken this position.

There are thousands of delegates meeting today in Houston who never had an opportunity to even voice an opinion or a concern or even have the light of day shine on this issue before they convened, before their board took this decision.

I believe that AARP should be absolutely ashamed of coming out and voting for a bill that is against the interest of their people. I have over 70,000 Medicare-eligible seniors in my district; \$500,000-plus dollars of cuts to Medicare. Now, many individuals in my district love the concept of Medicare Advantage. They say it's a great program, it covers things that they need covered, and there is no other opportunity for them to get this type of coverage. \$170 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage; that's not waste, fraud and abuse; that's cuts to Medicare Advantage—\$23.9 billion in cuts to skilled nursing facilities, \$143.6 billion in cuts to hospitals, skilled nursing rehabilitation facilities, psychiatric hospitals and hospice cares. Again, \$143.6 billion in cuts to the very hospitals that Medicare recipients need to go to.

They need to look at this bill and say, Is this good for the people of this country? We were told that if we passed this huge stimulus bill, unemployment would not go above 8 percent. We are at 10.2 percent today. In reality, it's about 17.5 percent when you figure the individuals who are discouraged and have given up trying to get a job. The underemployed people who have part-time jobs that would love to have a full-time job, they are not being considered. They need to be taken into consideration. This bill destroys jobs in our Nation.

These are letters from business people within my district that I've received in this last week that say it is going to kill jobs in our communities. The Orange County Department of Education, I received a letter from them today saying many jobs in education will be eliminated. "I firmly be-

lieve that if Congress passes the proposed health care legislation that many jobs in education will be eliminated. Passing this legislation in this form will have a tremendous impact on students, their education, and the workforce in Orange County." Even one franchise dealer with Pizza Hut says it will cost him \$3.5 million each year, on an annual basis, \$3.5 million.

You need to say, what are we doing in this country when doctors who are delegates representing other doctors are livid at this bill saying we are being accused of supporting something we do not support.

Let's see how this vote goes. Let's see if they will even allow this vote to come to fruition tomorrow as it should. But think of the people we're supposed to be helping that we're going to hurt.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the cooperation of our members on this committee on this important piece of legislation. With unemployment at an all-time high, it is now more than ever important for us to invest in our SBDCs, to support our small businesses, to expand their access to credit and capital, thus allowing them to keep their doors open and invest and expand their businesses, employing more Americans.

Now more than ever it is important to pass H.R. 1845, and I urge passage and a "yes" vote by all Members.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, 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. 1845, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. 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 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1299, UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 896)