

House Calendar No. 23

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 22

[Report No. 109-52]

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2005

Mr. KELLER (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

APRIL 21, 2005

Additional sponsors: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WALSH, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GILCHREST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MACK, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. TURNER

APRIL 21, 2005

Reported with amendments, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out the preamble and insert the part printed in italic]

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic]

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights.

Whereas more than 90 percent of all American employers are small businesses;

Whereas small businesses generate approximately 70 percent of the new jobs created in the United States each year;

Whereas small businesses are crucial to the American economy and account for a significant majority of new product ideas and innovations;

Whereas small businesses, together with innovation and entrepreneurship, are central to the American dream of self-improvement and individual achievement;

Whereas 60 percent of the 45,000,000 Americans without health insurance are small business employees and their families;

Whereas most small businesses do not provide health insurance to their employees, primarily because of the surging cost;

Whereas the death tax causes one-third of all family-owned small businesses to liquidate after the death of the owner;

Whereas frivolous lawsuits and the rising costs of liability insurance represent serious threats to small business owners;

Whereas burdensome regulations and paperwork cost small businesses more than \$5,500 per employee; and

Whereas Congress can help small businesses grow by establishing a climate to encourage small businesses to create jobs and offer more affordable health insurance to employees: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-*
2 *resentatives that American small businesses are entitled to*
3 *the following Small Business Bill of Rights:*

4 (1) The right to join together to purchase af-
5 fordable health insurance for small business employ-
6 ees, who make up a large portion of the millions of
7 Americans without health care coverage.

8 (2) The right to tax laws that allow family-
9 owned small businesses to survive over several gen-
10 erations and offer them incentives to grow.

11 (3) The right to be free from frivolous lawsuits
12 which harm law-abiding small businesses and pre-
13 vent them from creating new jobs.

14 (4) The right to be free of unnecessary, restric-
15 tive regulations and paperwork which waste the time
16 and energy of small businesses while hurting produc-
17 tion and preventing job creation.

Whereas more than 90 percent of all American employers are
small businesses;

Whereas small businesses generate approximately 70 percent of
the new jobs created in the United States each year;

Whereas small businesses are crucial to the American economy
and account for a significant majority of new product
ideas and innovations;

Whereas small businesses, together with innovation and entre-
preneurship, are central to the American dream of self-im-
provement and individual achievement;

Whereas 60 percent of the 45,000,000 Americans without health insurance are small business employees and their families;

Whereas most small businesses do not provide health insurance to their employees, primarily because of the surging cost;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is exceedingly complex, making it difficult for small businesses to understand it and comply with its requirements;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 discriminates, in many instances, against small businesses and self-employed persons by limiting the availability of certain tax incentives to larger firms or corporations;

Whereas the death tax causes one-third of all family-owned small businesses to liquidate after the death of the owner;

Whereas frivolous lawsuits and the rising costs of liability insurance represent serious threats to small business owners;

Whereas burdensome regulations and paperwork cost small businesses more than \$5,500 per employee;

Whereas adequate, affordable, and reliable energy supplies are essential to the success of small businesses, especially small manufacturers;

Whereas lack of access to capital and credit stifles new business growth and economic opportunity;

Whereas both unsound contract bundling or consolidation and the failure of various Federal agencies to closely monitor the small business goals and subcontracting plans of large businesses have dried up many procurement opportunities for small businesses; and

Whereas Congress can help small businesses grow by establishing a climate to encourage small businesses to create

jobs and offer more affordable health insurance to employees: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-*
2 *resentatives that American small businesses are entitled to*
3 *the following Small Business Bill of Rights:*

4 *(1) The right to join together to purchase afford-*
5 *able health insurance for small business employees,*
6 *who make up a large portion of the millions of Amer-*
7 *icans without health care coverage.*

8 *(2) The right to simplified tax laws that allow*
9 *family-owned small businesses to survive over several*
10 *generations and offer them incentives to grow.*

11 *(3) The right to be free from frivolous lawsuits*
12 *which harm law-abiding small businesses and prevent*
13 *them from creating new jobs.*

14 *(4) The right to be free of unnecessary, restrictive*
15 *regulations and paperwork which waste the time and*
16 *energy of small businesses while hurting production*
17 *and preventing job creation.*

18 *(5) The right to relief from high energy costs,*
19 *which pose a real threat to the survival of small busi-*
20 *nesses, to be accomplished by reducing the Nation's*
21 *reliance on imported sources of energy and encour-*
22 *aging environmentally-sound domestic production*
23 *and conservation of energy.*

1 (6) *The right to equal treatment, as compared to*
2 *large businesses, when seeking access to start-up and*
3 *expansion capital and credit.*

4 (7) *The right to open access to the Government*
5 *procurement marketplace through the breaking up of*
6 *large contracts to give small business owners a fair*
7 *opportunity to compete for Federal contracts.*

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