

economy.” They are responsible for half of all private-sector jobs, and they’ve created about 70 percent of all new jobs in the past 10 years.

We need to build our economy from the ground up, create stable jobs, and foster innovation that will lead to long-term growth. To do this, we need to support the small high-tech companies that grow our economy.

The Federal Government supports these innovative small businesses through the Small Business Innovative Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, which help companies commercialize Federally funded research. The programs now distribute more than \$2.5 billion each year and constitute the largest tech-transfer commercialization programs that we have in the Federal Government.

However, these programs must be updated to reflect the current innovation environment. Award sizes should be increased to reflect inflation and the growth of operating costs; the issue of venture capital participation needs to be resolved; flexibility must be instilled between phase one and phase two grants; and data collection needs to be improved so that we can better target the program and determine its effectiveness.

Last year, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 5819, which made these necessary changes based on suggestions from hearings in my Technology and Innovation Subcommittee and in conjunction with our work with Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member GRAVES. However, good legislation, once again, died in the other Chamber.

Today, we find the House needing to pass an extension to keep these programs alive. This extension is necessary because the SBA and SBIR serve important purposes. But, moving forward, if we are to continue realizing the full value of programs like SBIR, we must reauthorize them with changes that reflect the evolving innovation environment, rather than simply extending the current authorization. It must be an innovation program as well as a jobs and small business program.

At a time when credit is tight and jobs are scarce, SBIR and STTR can have a significant role in jump-starting our economy. The House and Senate need to pass legislation this year that will reauthorize these programs, innovate new products and services, support small businesses, and create well-paying jobs for decades to come.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1541.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953, and has a current business loan portfolio of roughly 220,000 loans worth more than \$50 billion, which makes it the largest single financial backer of U.S. businesses. My district is home to these businesses, many of which are struggling to hang tough in this trying economy.

In the 110th Congress, several short-term SBA authorization measures were enacted;

the latest was signed into law on May 23, 2008. Under that law, authorization for SBA programs is scheduled to expire on March 20. I am hopeful that President Obama continues the recognition and support for small businesses that he demonstrated yesterday. His leadership, along with that of my colleague NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ on these issues could not come at a more important time.

Small business is frequently viewed as an incubator for employment and economic growth, and is a continuing legislative and oversight concern for Congress due to its constitutional role, through the interstate commerce and general welfare clauses, to promote economic well being and prosperity.

While many analysts believe a very significant percentage of the nation’s jobs are created by small businesses, others note that a great many small businesses fail every year thereby eliminating jobs.

The 111th Congress is likely to consider many small business issues as it debates reauthorization the many Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that are scheduled to expire in 2009. Our small business owners need certainty to plan for the future and I will continue to work hard for a more permanent solution to complement the authorizations that many businesses have to endure.

A primary issue in the reauthorization is likely to be the cost to the government of various small business assistance programs. The Bush Administration had proposed that certain loan programs be cut back or eliminated, that borrowers in the SBA’s basic loan program be charged higher fees, and that interest rates for disaster loans rise to market levels after five years. I hope that a full review of these policies is underway by the new administration.

Ways to insure that small businesses benefit from economic stimulus programs are likely to be considered. Finding ways for small businesses to provide health insurance to employees could be vital in getting elements of the business community to be actively supporting and working with Congress as we press ahead with legislation on health care. I understand that we in Congress cannot run your businesses for you. I just want to be there to help fashion fair and reasonable legislation that affects small business.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes Small Business Administration programs and authority through July 31 and again it is my hope that we continue to engage the business community as this Congress seeks to move America from recession back to prosperity.

Mr. GRAVES. I would, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1541.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a “yes” vote.

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. 1541.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 240, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 211, de novo; and H.R. 628, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes. Remaining votes on outstanding postponed motions to suspend the rules will be taken later.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 128]

YEAS—421

Ackerman	Bright	Courtney
Aderholt	Broun (GA)	Crenshaw
Adler (NJ)	Brown (SC)	Crowley
Akin	Brown, Corrine	Cuellar
Alexander	Brown-Waite,	Culberson
Altmire	Ginny	Cummings
Andrews	Buchanan	Dahlkemper
Arcuri	Burgess	Davis (AL)
Austria	Burton (IN)	Davis (CA)
Baca	Butterfield	Davis (IL)
Bachmann	Buyer	Davis (KY)
Bachus	Calvert	Davis (TN)
Baird	Camp	Deal (GA)
Baldwin	Campbell	DeFazio
Barrett (SC)	Cantor	DeGette
Barrow	Cao	Delahunt
Bartlett	Capito	DeLauro
Barton (TX)	Capps	Dent
Bean	Capuano	Diaz-Balart, L.
Becerra	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, M.
Berkley	Carnahan	Dicks
Berman	Carney	Dingell
Berry	Carson (IN)	Doggett
Biggert	Carter	Donnelly (IN)
Bilbray	Cassidy	Doyle
Bilirakis	Castle	Driehaus
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Duncan
Bishop (NY)	Chaffetz	Edwards (MD)
Bishop (UT)	Chandler	Edwards (TX)
Blackburn	Childers	Ehlers
Blumenauer	Clarke	Ellison
Blunt	Clay	Ellsworth
Bocchieri	Cleaver	Emerson
Boehner	Clyburn	Engel
Bonner	Coble	Eshoo
Bono Mack	Coffman (CO)	Etheridge
Boozman	Cohen	Fallin
Boren	Cole	Farr
Boswell	Conaway	Fattah
Boucher	Connolly (VA)	Filner
Boyd	Conyers	Flake
Brady (PA)	Cooper	Fleming
Brady (TX)	Costa	Forbes
Braley (IA)	Costello	Fortenberry