



Opening Statement
Chairman Sam Graves
House Committee on Small Business
Hearing: “Promoting Entrepreneurship and Job Creation by Decreasing Duplication at SBA.”
May 25, 2011

I want to thank our witnesses for being here today. We look forward to your testimony.

Our nation is at a critical point. Our national debt and annual deficits have reached historic proportions. It is Congress’ obligation to look for ways to reduce federal spending to get our fiscal house in order. The first step is to cut out waste and duplication in government programs. This Committee is responsible for determining how the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can operate more efficiently while providing quality services to our nation’s aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners so that they can grow our economy and create jobs.

Turning an idea into a small business can be very overwhelming. To aid business owners, SBA offers online training, and counseling, both through its district offices and through its network of resource partners. However, as government continues to grow, so have the number of entrepreneurial development programs, not only at the SBA, but at a number of different federal agencies as well. It’s our job now to take a thorough look at what each of these programs does and how best to serve the American people – both those who use the programs and the taxpayers who are financing them.

Today we have a distinguished panel of witnesses who will provide guidance to this Committee as we look to streamline the government to make the delivery of services more efficient and effective. First off, we are going to hear about the scope of the problem -- According to the Government Accountability Office, there are 80 programs in four different federal agencies charged with

helping entrepreneurs. For fiscal year 2010, these programs cost the government \$6.2 billion dollars.

Next, we want to look at the needs of entrepreneurs through the eyes of the people on the ground providing counseling. And we will hear from someone who is providing services through the SBA's Small Business Development Center program. Finally, we will hear about some of the programs available to business owners that are not funded by the taxpayers, but by industry peers who want to help their communities prosper.

I am very much looking forward to the testimony today to help guide our efforts to streamline government, provide a more efficient delivery of services to entrepreneurs and to save the taxpayers' money.

Again, I want to thank our witnesses for their participation. I now yield to the Ranking Member for her opening remarks.