

Small Business Majority 2017 Year in Review





Letter from John Arensmeyer Founder & CEO, Small Business Majority

Dear Friends.

With a new political dynamic in Washington, 2017 has been a particularly important year to make the small business voice heard. The new administration and Congress made healthcare and tax reform their policy priorities, and we have worked tirelessly to make sure any policy changes benefit, rather than harm, America's entrepreneurs. We pushed back against multiple efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, instead advocating for bipartisan changes to strengthen the law. And, we have engaged diligently in the debate on tax reform, advocating for fiscally-responsible changes that benefit our nation's Main Street small businesses instead of the handouts to large corporations and wealthy individuals that are unfortunately being considered right now.

We have taken our Entrepreneurship Program to new levels this year, providing vital resources to small business owners on their lending options, healthcare options, retirement security and more. We also launched our newest product, SimpleGrowth, a lending platform to help Chicago-area small business owners discover responsible lending options and find resources to help them grow their businesses. We look forward to expanding all of our entrepreneurship work next year, geographically and functionally, while launching programs specifically targeted to women and Latino entrepreneurs.

Additionally, we released numerous polls examining small business attitudes on a wide variety of topics, and we held our Small Business Policy Forum in October, which brought 50 small business leaders to Washington, D.C. and provided them with the tools to make their own voices heard in our nation's policy debates.

Perhaps most important, we continue to engage our network of more than 55,000 small business owners, and have grown our team to 30 people working out of 10 offices. Small Business Majority outreach staff conducted nearly 300 outreach events in 2017 on a host of issues, including access to capital, retirement security and savings options, healthcare, employee benefits and more, including nearly 30 events in Spanish.

There's much more work to be done to ensure small businesses have the tools and economic environment they need to succeed. We look forward to our continued partnership with you in 2018.

John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO

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2017 SMALL BUSINESS POLICY FORUM

ADVANCING THE NEW SMALL BUSINESS AGENDA

On October 17 and 18, we held our 2017 Small Business Policy Forum, which brought 50 small business leaders from around the country to our nation's capital to discuss policy reforms that are needed to help small businesses thrive.





The first day of the Policy Forum featured a full day of discussion among small business owners and policy experts on key issues, including tax reform, access to capital, policies to boost women's entrepreneurship, preserving and expanding healthcare and portable benefits options.





The second day took attendees to Capitol Hill to engage with staff from the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), the House Committee on Ways and Means and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's office. The attendees asked questions of the staff and provided feedback on particular issues that have impacted their businesses, such as access to capital and affordable healthcare.



The 2017 Policy Forum was an exceptional opportunity for small business owners to come together regardless of industry or background and discuss the issues that affect them all, learn how to engage with policymakers and make their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

For more information and photos from the event, visit:

www.smallbizpolicyforum.com

And stay tuned for details on next year's event, which will take place **September 25-26, 2018 in Washington, D.C.**



SIMPLEGROWTH

A NEW LENDING TOOL FOR CHICAGO SMALL BUSINESSES

In October, we launched SimpleGrowth, an online platform designed to help Chicagoland small businesses access responsible financing. We partnered with national online lending marketplace Fundera and Chicago's leading mission-driven lender Accion to create a platform that connects entrepreneurs in the Chicago area to local lenders that prioritize small business and offer more flexible and affordable terms than traditional banks. SimpleGrowth also connects small business owners to business assistance centers that can help with education, planning and other resources.



simplegrowth

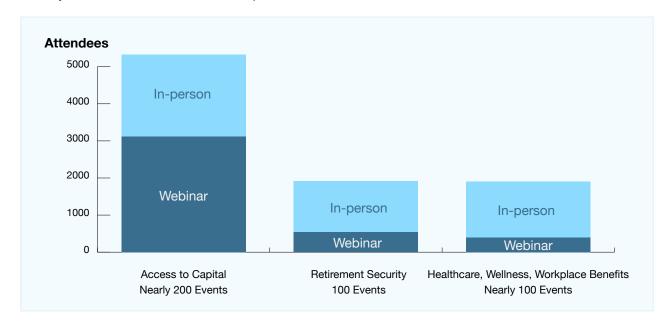
Our kickoff event was hosted at Ain't She Sweet Café, a business that received funding from our partners at Accion Chicago, and featured remarks from Chicago City Treasurer Kurt Summers and live demonstrations of how the platform works.

Learn more about SimpleGrowth and how it can help Chicagoland small businesses at www.simplegrowth.biz.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM EXPANDS

This year we continued to grow our Entrepreneurship Program, which delivers information and resources needed to run a successful small business, by expanding our in-person and online reach with educational seminars on entrepreneurship topics, including:

- Nearly 200 access to capital events
- 100 retirement security events
- Nearly 100 healthcare, wellness and workplace benefits events





EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

We created a series of videos that highlight key points of our Entrepreneurship Program, including understanding the 5 C's of credit, an overview of mission-based lenders and retirement options for small businesses, along with other pertinent topics. These videos have already garnered nearly 2,000 views on YouTube and Facebook.





- Exploring alternative funding options: What is a CDFI?
- Consider these key questions before applying for a small business loan
- Boost your loan application by learning the 5 Cs of Credit
- Know your rights as a small business borrower
- Positives and pitfalls of online lending
- What small business owners need to know about SBA's loan guarantee program



 Understanding your retirement options: Group trust vs. IRA-based plans

View these videos on YouTube under our Small Business Financing 101 and Small Business Retirement 101 playlists: www.youtube.com/user/SmlBusinessMajority/playlists

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY



Alfredo Zendejas co-owns Accesorios Zendejas with his wife, Leticia Sanchez, in Los Angeles. A true mom-and-pop enterprise, Alfredo and Leticia work together to design, create and deliver custom decorative pieces for quinceñeras, baptisms, weddings and other special occasions. Alfredo and Leticia's business has expanded significantly over the past eight years, but earlier this year they needed additional capital to purchase a piece of stitching equipment. Alfredo struggled to find a loan but after attending one of Small Business Majority's access to capital events and speaking at length with Southern California Outreach Manager/National Hispanic Outreach Manager Xiomara Peña, Alfredo was able to connect with a bilingual loan officer at Opportunity Fund, a community development financial institution

that helps business owners who may not qualify for a traditional bank loan. Soon after, his loan of \$26,000 was approved for the purchase of his stitching equipment, which will lower costs and help increase sales for his business.

SPANISH-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION

This year, we also translated all our access to capital materials into Spanish and partnered with the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on a regular webinar series in Spanish. We look forward to continue expanding our Spanish-language content, turning next to our retirement security materials. Visit **es.smallbusinessportal.org** to access our new Spanish-language content.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

In Missouri, we incorporated financial literacy for small business owners and their employees into our outreach, partnering with Working Credit to help small business owners understand and build credit.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

We have some exciting new online services in the works for 2018 that will better help small businesses find the resources they need to start, sustain and grow their businesses. Stay tuned for more information!



DEFENDING THE ACA FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Shortly after Election Day, President Trump announced that repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act would be a top policy priority for his administration in 2017, and Congress quickly pursued efforts to overhaul or even completely repeal the law without a replacement. Small Business Majority worked tirelessly this year to make sure these efforts didn't succeed in reducing healthcare access for the millions of small business owners, self-employed individuals and small business employees who have gained access to comprehensive and affordable coverage under the ACA.

In March, we conducted scientific opinion polling that found small business owners prefer the ACA to replacement plans by a 2:1 ratio. To illustrate this message to Congress, we launched Keep-OurCare.biz, urging lawmakers to uphold the ACA. Hundreds of small business owners signed onto the effort. We also helped small business owners share their healthcare stories through letters to the editor, op-eds, blog posts and more—which helped us garner nearly 1,000 media hits in all—and in meetings with members of Congress.



Efforts to dismantle the ACA stalled earlier this fall, when the Senate failed to garner enough support to pass a measure to repeal the healthcare law. Small Business Majority has continued its work encouraging lawmakers to enact bipartisan improvements to the ACA, starting with guaranteeing cost-sharing reduction subsidies to help stabilize the individual marketplaces. We've put together some additional healthcare recommendations for Congress that provide suggestions for ways the ACA could be strengthened to help small businesses.

To read our healthcare recommendations, visit www.smallbusinessmajority.org/policy-agenda/healthcare.

FIGHTING FOR FAIR TAX REFORM

Our other top national policy focus has centered around making sure that tax reform proposals have a direct benefit to small business. Lawmakers in D.C. are working on major changes to the tax code, with current proposals calling for a large cut to corporate tax rates and potentially changing the top pass-through tax rates in a way that would primarily benefit a sliver of large pass-through businesses and their wealthy stockholders. These changes would not be offset by closing the vast majority of corporate loopholes, increasing the federal deficit by 1.5 trillion dollars at a time of relative overall prosperity. Instead, we have advocated for a fiscally-responsible bottom-up approach that will have a direct benefit to the vast majority of Main Street business owners. Our tax proposals are supported by our recent opinion polling.



As part of our work on taxes we generated more than 800 media hits including articles, op-eds, letters to the editor and four national TV appearances by Small Business Majority Founder & CEO John Arensmeyer. John also testified before the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee, and along with our government affairs team, has met with scores of members and staff on both sides of the aisle.

To watch John's testimony, visit: https://youtu.be/Vsg1WO-f9bE



RECENT RESEARCH - 2017 POLL REPORTS

This year we released new research on a host of issues, including small business owners' views on taxes; LGBT nondiscrimination legislation; access to family-friendly benefits such as birth control, child care and paid family leave; replacement proposals to the Affordable Care Act; retirement options for freelancers and more.



SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS CONCERNED WITH PREDATORY LENDING, SUPPORT MORE REGULATION OF ALTERNATIVE LENDERS

On December 12, we released a national scientific opinion poll that found small business owners think predatory lending practices are a problem, and they are overwhelmingly supportive of stronger regulations on alternative lenders to ensure they have safe, responsible access to capital.



SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OPPOSE DENYING SERVICES TO LGBT CUSTOMERS

On November 16, we released a national scientific opinion poll—including oversamples in five states—that found small business owners oppose denying services to LGBT customers based on religious beliefs, the right to free speech or freedom of artistic expression. Further, the poll showed that a majority of small businesses support enacting federal and state laws to protect LGBT individuals from discrimination in places of public accommodation and in the workplace.



SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WANT FAIR TAX SYSTEM OVER TAX CUTS

On October 26, we released a scientific opinion poll on small business owners' attitudes regarding tax reform. While current proposals are being sold as a boon for small businesses in a struggling economy, small business owners are in fact generally optimistic about the economy and rate healthcare, rather than taxes, as their top concern. Further, small business owners want Congress to prioritize making the tax system fair for small businesses over enacting tax cuts.



WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS SAY ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL IS IMPORTANT TO THEIR SUCCESS, SUPPORT CONTINUED COVERAGE

On October 13, we revealed a new opinion poll that found a majority of women-owned small businesses believe insurance companies should be required to include contraceptive coverage in their health plans. Further, the poll found women entrepreneurs say access to reproductive healthcare has been critical to their ability to start their business.



SMALL BUSINESSES FACE BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE, SUPPORT EXPANDED ACCESS

On September 25, our new scientific opinion poll found small business owners and their employees are impacted by a lack of access to high-quality, affordable child care, and that entrepreneurs support expanding federal programs to increase access to quality child care.



SMALL BUSINESSES SUPPORT PAID FAMILY LEAVE PROGRAMS

On March 30, we released a poll that found the majority of small businesses support publicly-administered paid family and medical leave insurance programs, which would allow employees to receive partial income when they need to take time off to recover from a serious illness or care for a new child or sick family member.



SMALL BUSINESSES SUPPORT ACA OVER REPLACEMENT PLAN

On March 23, our scientific opinion polling found small businesses favor the Affordable Care Act over the Republican replacement plan at the time, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), by a 2:1 ratio.



FREELANCERS NEED FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT OPTIONS

On March 22, scientific opinion polling revealed freelancers and self-employed entrepreneurs are doing reasonably well financially in the post-recession economy, but many are not able to save for retirement. As a result, they support portable retirement vehicles that address the flexible nature of their work.

Read the full reports on our website: http://smallbusinessmajority.org/our-research



NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS OUTREACH

Small Business Majority's outreach team conducted nearly 300 events in 2017, including in-person presentations, roundtables and events in both English and Spanish. We worked with small business owners around the country to make their voices heard on issues like access to capital and crowdfunding, healthcare, retirement security, workplace wellness, paid leave, employment nondiscrimination and more.

Read on for highlights from our state offices.

CALIFORNIA

Our team in California held more than 90 educational events on a variety topics:

- We developed an "Advocacy 101" presentation, which teaches entrepreneurs and small business owners how to advocate for the issues that impact them the most and to amplify their voices to shape policy.
- In March, we partnered with more than 30 different agencies to host "It's a Great Day in East L.A.," which provided education and resources and promoted conversations on a wide array of business topics for underserved communities. The event featured four panels covering access to capital, social media and technology and procurement opportunities. The event had more than 100 attendees, and some of the presentations have since been replicated in other communities to cultivate small business growth.



We held 20 Spanish-language access to capital and retirement workshops across Southern California. Partners for these events included the Los Angeles Business Source Centers, Small Business Development Centers, Get in Motion and others. Small Business Majority Outreach Manager Xiomara Peña was invited by Telemundo to share information about resources for small businesses within the Latino community in the Palm Desert region.

On March 15, Southern California Outreach Manager Xiomara Peña was interviewed on Telemundo where she talked about her work educating Latino business owners on financing and retirement options for their small business.



We continued to support efforts to implement the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program, which will expand access to retirement programs to small businesses with five or more employees. The program will be funded by employee contributions and administered by the state. We've been providing expert small business insight as the Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board builds the program. If you're interested in learning more about Secure Choice, you can email California Director Mark Herbert at mherbert@smallbusinessmajority.org.

On May 18, California Director Mark Herbert spoke at a press conference in Sacramento alongside California Treasurer John Chiang and California Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León about the future of California's Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program.

COLORADO



Earlier this year, the Colorado State Senate rejected a bill that would have allowed business owners to refuse service to anyone with whom they disagree, including on the basis of their religious beliefs. Small business owner Jeremy Bronson testified before the Colorado State Senate on the negative impact the bill could have had on the small business community. We will continue our work in Colorado to promote nondiscrimination, since we know from our polling that the state's small employers oppose this type of legislation.



We also advocated for legislation that would create a paid family and medical leave insurance program in Colorado. Lisa Goodbee, President of Goodbee & Associates Inc., testified before the Colorado House on how paid leave policies benefit businesses by lowering turnover, boosting productivity and enhancing employee morale, which is why the majority of small business owners support these programs. This work was also complemented by advocating on behalf of Colorado's efforts to implement a state-administered retirement savings program.

Lisa Goodbee, President of Goodbee & Associates Inc., speaks at the Colorado Capitol in support of a state-run, paid family leave program.

We also spoke out against a measure that sought to repeal the state healthcare marketplace. This bill would have forced all of Colorado's healthcare marketplace enrollees to re-enroll through Healthcare.gov and reduced the amount of flexibility the state had in innovating state-solutions to healthcare and insurance issues, which could have created problems for the state's small businesses. The bill was ultimately defeated.

Learn more about our Colorado activities on our website: www.smallbusinessmajority.org/states/colorado.

ILLINOIS

- In April, Midwest Outreach Manager Geri Aglipay represented small business owners and self-employed entrepreneurs at a roundtable discussion hosted by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky on the importance of protecting women's access to healthcare in light of attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- Small Business Majority partnered with the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development on a series of presentations and panel discussions with local lenders as part of the launch of a new initiative spearheaded by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF). NOF is designed to award grant funds to small business owners in designated commercial corridors in Chicago's South, Southwest and West Sides to strengthen neighborhood economic revitalization.



- Small Business Majority hosted a table discussion entitled "The Invisible Bottom Line" in partnership with Chicago Community Trust that addressed the gender wage gap among small business owners. The conversation was rich between microlenders and women small business owners on how financial entities can work for a more balanced economy by better supporting women-owned business and their employees.
- Small Business Majority continues to convene health enrollment stakeholders in Greater Chicago and throughout Illinois on affordable and accessible health coverage for entrepreneurs and their employees, including Get Covered Illinois, health departments, enrollment organizations and non-profit organizations.

Geri Aglipay, Midwest Outreach Manager, spoke at a healthcare roundtable discussion hosted by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky.







Small Business Majority held a roundtable discussion in May in Ferndale, Michigan on the impact of nondiscrimination policies on small businesses. The event specifically focused on how nondiscrimination policies can help employers attract and retain talented employees, and the impact of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) on Michigan's business climate.

Michaela Hahn Burriss, Midwest Outreach Manager, at LGBT nondiscrimination roundtable hosted by Michigan nonprofit, Affirmations.

Learn more about our Michigan activities on our website: www.smallbusinessmajority.org/states/michigan.

MISSOURI

- We launched our Healthy Business, Healthy Community Workplace Wellness Challenge in May, and it was a huge success. Over the course of eight weeks, small businesses in southwest Missouri competed against businesses in the St. Louis region by engaging in healthy activities and recording them for free through Wellable, a new fitness and nutrition-tracking program. In total, we had nearly 200 small business owners and employees participate in the Wellness Challenge, who collectively walked a whopping 176,805 miles throughout the competition.
- This month, Small Business Majority hosted a large convening in Springfield to help local small business owners gain tools and knowledge, and to connect them with local resources to help them launch, grow and expand their business. The event had nearly 100 participants and covered topics like funding and financial resources, government contracts and subcontracting, and growth strategies and marketing for small businesses.
- Small Business Majority also held a series of "Small Business Growth Resource Workshops" in Missouri to educate small businesses on financial and health literacy and how this can help their businesses. These events aimed to provide Missouri business organizations with tools and resources they can provide to their employees.





Mary Overbey, Missouri Outreach Manager, posing with Springfield Wellness Challenge participants.

Learn more about our Missouri activities on our website: www.smallbusinessmajority.org/states/missouri.







- Small Business Majority held a series of roundtables in North Carolina to gauge the small business perspective on open, nondiscriminatory business policies. These roundtables worked to directly educate small business owners on how nondiscrimination policies can benefit their operations and empowered them to serve as advocates on the issue.
- We also advocated for efforts to overturn HB 2, a new state law that prevents cities and municipalities from enacting their own laws protecting against LGBT discrimination in public accommodations. We partnered with local organizations on this effort and recruited nearly 20 small business owners to engage on the issue, who then spoke at press events and published op-eds and letters to the editor to make the small business case for repealing the law and ensuring an open business climate in the state.

Erik Rettig, Mid-Atlantic Director and Charlotte Black Chamber President Gary Young posing for a photograph following a small business roundtable about nondiscrimination.

Learn more about our North Carolina activities on our website: www.smallbusinessmajority.org/states/north-carolina.



- OHIO
 - Small Business Majority worked with Ohio small business owners to make their voices heard on how the ACA is important to their businesses by helping them engage with their members of Congress and placing letters to the editor and op-eds during the debate to repeal the ACA.
 - Small Business Majority also partnered with the Small Business Administration on an entrepreneurship series, in which we co-hosted webinars on access to capital and retirement, and ended with an in-person event in Georgetown, OH. These events touched on topics including alternative lending options, SBA's loan guarantee program, the U.S. retirement savings gap and other helpful tools and resources for entrepreneurs.
 - In June, Small Business Majority partnered with Equality Ohio and local business owners to host a tele-town hall to discuss employment nondiscrimination. Ohio Outreach Manager Michaela Hahn Burriss discussed the importance of passing a comprehensive workplace nondiscrimination bill in Ohio and the impact such policies could have on small businesses. This roundtable followed previous advocacy work from Small Business Majority in Ohio in support of the Ohio Fairness Act, which would extend employment nondiscrimination to LGBT individuals.



Small Business Majority's Michaela Hahn Burriss stands with Ohio State Representative Nickie Antonio, as well as fellow business and community representatives, to support the Ohio Fairness Act.

Learn more about our Ohio activities on our website: www.smallbusinessmajority.org/states/ohio.





- Small Business Majority partnered with Pfizer in August for a panel discussion in Richmond, Virginia on small business healthcare. The interactive panel discussion included an overview of small business coverage options and how small businesses could lower healthcare costs, while also providing an overview of what was happening on the healthcare policy front. The event had more than 50 attendees.
- In February, Small Business Majority's Mid-Atlantic Director, Erik Rettig, and small business owner Clifton Broumand testified in Annapolis in support of paid sick days at the Maryland State Senate. The bill, which passed the Senate but was ultimately vetoed by the governor, would have allowed those who work at businesses with 15 or more employees to earn paid sick leave, and for those at smaller companies to earn unpaid leave. Small Business Majority's scientific opinion polling found half of small business owners say they would support a law requiring that employers allow employees to earn paid sick days based on the hours they have worked.



• In October, Erik Rettig, small business owners and other representatives of the small business community testified in support of paid family leave before the D.C. City Council. Erik urged the Council to move forward with implementing a paid family leave insurance program as passed, rather than considering further changes and amendments that will slow down implementation. We know from our scientific opinion polling that small businesses support paid leave insurance pools that can help them offer paid family leave benefits to their employees.

Mid-Atlantic Director Erik Rettig testified in support of paid family leave before the D.C. City Council.



SMALL BUSINESS MAJORITY IN THE NEWS: 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

GOP's Tax Reform Won't Benefit Small Business Owners: John Arensmeyer - Fox Business - November 29, 2017 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZleDvsok9sg

John Arensmeyer on Tax Reform - VICE News Tonight - November 14, 2017 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6U90Hon6bE

Big Business is a Big Winner of GOP Small Business Tax Plan - Washington Post - November 7, 2017 https://www.washingtonpost.com/business-is-a-big-winner-of-gop-small-business-tax-plan/2017/11/07/865ac376-c3c9-11e7-afe9-4f60b5a6c4a0_story.html

Why the Republican Tax Plan Won't Help Small Businesses - Fox Business - November 6, 2017 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71aBjBW2Cs&t=15s

Small Business Reaction to New GOP Tax Plan - Fox News - November 4, 2017 http://video.foxnews.com/v/5635246097001/?#sp=show-clips

These Powerful Business Groups Hate the GOP Tax Plan - CNN Money - November 3, 2017 http://money.cnn.com/2017/11/03/investing/tax-bill-business-lobby-realtors-homebuilders/index.html

Mnuchin, Small Business Groups, Clash Over Tax Plan Benefits - Fox Business - November 2, 2017 http://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/2017/11/02/mnuchin-small-business-groups-clash-over-tax-plan-benefits.html

What Really Helps Women Succeed at Work? Access to Birth Control - Slate.com - October 17, 2017 http://www.slate.com/blogs/better_life_lab/2017/10/17/female_small_business_owners_cite_birth_control_as_key_to_their_success.html

The Simple Way to Tell Whether Trump's Tax Plan is for the 'Little Guy' or the 1 percent - Washington Post - September 19, 2017 https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/09/19/the-simple-way-to-tell-whether-trumps-tax-plan-is-for-the-little-guy-or-the-1-percent

Small Businesses Split Over Republican Health Plans - The New York Times - July 23, 2017 https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/23/business/smallbusiness/health-insurance-affordable-care-act-republicans.html

'Gig' Workers Falling Behind on Retirement Savings - CNBC - March 22, 2017 https://www.cnbc.com/2017/03/22/gig-workers-falling-behind-on-retirement-savings.html

How ACA Repeal Will Harm Small Businesses - MSNBC - March 19, 2017 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIxEQmJcf7E

For Self-Employed Entrepreneurs, Losing The ACA Would Be An Enormous Setback - Health Affairs - March 9, 2017 https://www.healthaffairs.org/action/showDoPubSecure?doi=10.1377%2Fhblog20170309.059115&format=full

Small Businesses Weigh in on the End of Obamacare - CNBC - February 28, 2017 https://www.cnbc.com/video/2017/02/28/small-businesses-weigh-in-on-the-end-of-obamacare.html



WHERE WE WORK

Small Business Majority is a national small business advocacy organization, founded and run by small business owners to ensure America's entrepreneurs are a key part of an inclusive, equitable and diverse economy. We actively engage small business owners and policymakers in support of public policy solutions, and deliver information and resources to entrepreneurs that promote small business growth and drive a strong, sustainable job-creating economy. Our extensive scientific opinion polling, focus groups and economic research help us educate and inform policymakers, the media and other stakeholders about key issues impacting small businesses and freelancers, including healthcare, access to capital, taxes, retirement, paid leave and other workforce issues. We regularly engage our network of 55,000 small business owners and work with more than 1,000 business groups across the country on issues including access to capital, healthcare, taxes, retirement, paid leave and other policies directly impacting entrepreneurship. We are a team of 30 working from 10 offices in Washington, D.C., and eight states: California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Ohio and Virginia.

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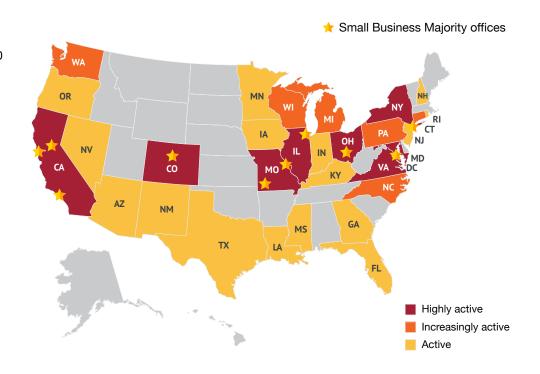
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