



June 5, 2026

Rep. John Bell  
Chair  
Room 2301  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Rep. Tricia Cotham  
Vice Chair  
Room 528  
Legislative Office Building  
300 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*RE: House Bill 1046, NC Economic Progress and Well-Being*

Dear Chair Bell and Vice Chair Cotham and Members of the Committee:

As a representative of the more than 2,700 small businesses in our network in North Carolina, Small Business Majority writes to offer support and recommendations in favor of House Bill 1046. This bill would help to initiate an important analysis of how businesses are formed and whether they face barriers.

It would mandate the North Carolina Department of Commerce to prepare and publish a biennial report focusing on economic opportunity, affordability and family economic security across the state. This report is designed to provide detailed statewide and county-level data on various indicators affecting individuals, families and communities. It includes a requirement that metrics include “other county-level indicators of economic opportunity, business formation....” This is particularly important as small businesses across the state face significant barriers in starting, maintaining and growing their businesses. Additionally, these metrics aren’t readily available today, so this would provide new information to help policymakers in their work to support North Carolina small businesses.

A recent poll of Small Business Majority’s network found nearly two-thirds (64%) of small business owners say their business expenses have risen over the past three months while, only 9% say they have decreased.<sup>1</sup> These concerns are also exacerbated by the damage of Hurricane Helene and entrepreneurs’ ongoing struggle to compete with larger corporations. Many small businesses are being harmed by corporate consolidation and monopolistic practices, and 65% percent believe their state should do more to strengthen its anti-monopoly laws and enforcement.<sup>2</sup>

Small businesses are better able to thrive when they operate on a level playing field. We urge you to pass this legislation so North Carolina can learn how to better support small businesses and reduce barriers to fair competition.

Sincerely,

Awesta Sarkash  
Vice President, State Policy & Advocacy  
Small Business Majority

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<sup>1</sup> “Voice of Main Street: Small businesses being strained by rising costs.” Small Business Majority. March 25, 2026. <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/our-research/voice-of-main-street/small-businesses-being-strained-rising-costs>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.