

The agenda for Minnesota's entrepreneurs: 2025 legislative session

Small Business Majority has created recommendations to capture our policy priorities that would help to ensure a thriving and inclusive economy in Minnesota. The state is comprised of more than 545,000 small businesses employing 1.2 million people. This is why it's critical that state lawmakers enact policies and programs to support and empower these entrepreneurs, guaranteeing they have access to critical resources and incentives to start and grow their business.

Increase access to capital and opportunity for entrepreneurs

- **Ensure that the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development Department Small Business Financing Authority** is engaging key stakeholders to effectively disburse funding from the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) in small-dollar loans, particularly to reach under-resourced communities in the state.
- **Promote responsible lending practices by lenders and brokers to protect small businesses from irresponsible or predatory lending practices.** As outlined in the [Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights](#), small businesses need annual percentage rate disclosures (APR) so they can accurately compare financial products. Minnesota should amend its commercial financing laws to include important disclosures like APR for all small business financing products so that small businesses can access fair, transparent and safe capital.

Bolster a Main Street-friendly workforce and the creation of quality jobs

- **Address consolidation in healthcare.** Consolidation is a key driver of the high cost of healthcare that small businesses in Minnesota face. Legislators took the first step in addressing this problem by passing legislation cracking down on massive healthcare mergers. To build on that progress we should require greater transparency for private equity firms that own healthcare entities, strengthen corporate practice of medicine laws that protect medical professionals' ownership over certain medical practices and address the growing power of pharmacy benefit managers that threaten independent pharmacies.
- **Continue to support rulemaking for Minnesota's newly passed paid family and medical leave law.** This year, the state will focus on disbursing outreach grants to community-based organizations and ensuring employers notify employees about their paid leave benefits. In order to support entrepreneurs across the state, it's critical that the oversight agency has all the resources it needs to prepare for the launch of the program in 2026.

Promote a level playing field for Minnesota small businesses

- **Ensure strong funding for the Antitrust Division in the Attorney General's office.** The Attorney General's office is central to the oversight and review of antitrust work across the state. Without proper funding to support communities across the state, the small business ecosystem will suffer from unchecked corporate consolidation. Legislators made key investments in antitrust enforcement in recent years and must build on that progress to ensure a level playing field for small businesses.
- **Modernize antitrust laws by increasing fines and providing clear, enforceable standards.** The penalties for violating Minnesota's antitrust laws have gone unchanged since 1971 and do not reflect the size and power of today's multi-billion-dollar, multi-national corporate monopolies. Increasing these penalties and tying them to the size of the companies involved in

violations will serve as a stronger deterrent. Further changes to update and clarify terms will establish clearer guidance while also making the law easier to enforce.

- **Strengthen protections against price discrimination that harms independent businesses and workers.** Minnesota small businesses are seeing costs rise because of the actions of big corporations and need stronger protections. To help protect them, we must strengthen Minnesota's price discrimination statute that prohibits larger companies from receiving preferential pricing from manufacturers, by adopting language from the federal Robinson-Patman Act. We should also explore ways to strengthen price gouging and price fixing laws to ensure small businesses aren't being taken advantage of.