

September 24, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Small
Business & Entrepreneurship
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dr. Rand Paul
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on
Small Business & Entrepreneurship
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Confirmation of President Biden's Nominee, Dilawar Syed, as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration

Dear Chairman Cardin and Ranking Member Dr. Paul:

As a representative of America's 30 million small businesses, Small Business Majority writes today to strongly urge you and your fellow Committee members to swiftly confirm Dilawar Syed as President Biden's nominee for Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and inclusive economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and other partner organizations to advocate for public policy solutions and deliver resources to entrepreneurs that promote equitable small business growth.

We are concerned about recent actions to prevent Mr. Syed's nomination from advancing, which are based on reasons that have nothing to do with his qualifications for the role. In fact, Mr. Syed will be a champion for small businesses as we move forward to support our nation's job creators and innovators on their road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Syed has led a distinguished career, including in his current role as President and CEO at Lumiata. What's more, he served on President Obama's White House Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and chaired the White House Initiative on AAPI's Economic Growth Committee.

Notably, Mr. Syed is the founding Chair of California's Entrepreneurship Task Force within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. The task force shares ideas and solutions to propel California's next generation of innovative entrepreneurs and small and medium businesses, ensuring they have access to resources that are essential to their expansion. We have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Syed in this capacity and have found him to be very knowledgeable about and committed to the success of our nation's small business job creators.

Mr. Syed offers innovative insights and solutions that will better support the small business ecosystem, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. His career speaks to his commitment to diverse small businesses and his belief that they are capable of growth and expansion, reinforcing their role as our economic drivers. What's more, the SBA needs this important role filled in order to advance the Agency's programs and policies to support small businesses during this challenging time.

As such, we urge Committee members to put differences aside and immediately vote to confirm Dilawar Syed as SBA Deputy Administrator.

Sincerely,



John Arensmeyer
Founder and CEO

cc: The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader