

No Administration since 1995 has assembled a White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB). Recently introduced legislation could change that.

It has been over 30 years since the last WHCSB.

With the challenges of Small Businesses changing significantly over the past three decades, NSBA strongly believes it is time to convene a forum to develop a cohesive Small-Business agenda and ensure the federal government is taking an active role in fostering entrepreneurial development.

Three historical WHCSBs occurred in 1980, 1986, and 1995, all of which shared similar organizational formats and activities, with differences generated in process and outcomes. In addition, the 1995 WHCSB delegates elected regional implementation teams that worked closely with the Small Business Administration (SBA) in monitoring congressional and executive branch action on the 1995 Conference's recommendations after its conclusion.

The SBA attributed much of the 1995 Conference's implementation "success rate" to the efforts of these implementation teams.

NSBA is calling on Congress to pass legislation that would appropriate funds for a WHCSB before the end of the current 119th Congress.

WORKING SOLUTIONS

Rep. Brad Finstad (R-Minn.) and Rep. Don Davis (D-N.C.) recently introduced the White House Conference on Small Business Act of 2025. This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the WHCSB to host Small-Business owners from all 50 states, providing a structured national forum for policymakers to hear directly from small enterprises about what is working in federal programs and policy.

NSBA is proud to endorse the legislation and support lawmakers in carrying out this important work.

Convening a WHCSB sends a message to the millions of people in and positively affected by the Small-Business community that Congress and the White House see their long-term economic security as a priority.