

# SUMMER ADVOCACY UPDATE

8/10/2021

Good Afternoon,

Things are heating up even though it's August in the nation's capital.

## Capitol Hill News

### **Infrastructure Passes Senate**

The Senate passed the \$1 trillion infrastructure [bill](#) today. The 69-30 vote on the bipartisan package is a trimmed-down version of the President's original \$2.6 trillion proposal.

- The infrastructure bill is the legislative vehicle for roads, bridges, and major projects; passenger and freight rail, public transit, broadband, power infrastructure, state and tribal assistance grants.
  - \$110 billion will go toward roads and bridges,
  - \$66 billion to rail
  - \$40 billion to transit
  - \$65 billion for expanding access to broadband, including by providing low-income households a \$30 monthly voucher to pay for internet service.
  - **10% of infrastructure contracts will be set-aside for minority and women-owned businesses. The addition of women is a significant change for the DBE program.**
- We've seen amendments added through the legislative process, such as a bipartisan amendment to expand and make the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) permanent.
  - The amendment would expand the geographic reach of the MBDA by authorizing the creation of regional MBDA offices and rural business centers to be administered through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and minority-serving institutions (MSIs).
  - It would create the Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education Grants Program to cultivate the next generation of minority entrepreneurs on the campuses of our nation's HBCUs and MSIs.
  - The amendment would also increase the MBDA's grant-making capacity to partner with the community and national nonprofits engaged in private and public sector development and research.

Next up, the bill goes to the House, where House Speaker Pelosi has vowed not to take it up unless the Senate passes the budget reconciliation bill.

### **Build Back Better budget reconciliation? What's that about?**

Next, the Senate plans to move to the Budget Reconciliation immediately. Committees have until September 15 to draft their sections of the \$3.5 trillion spending package. Democrats plan

on using the process to pass the measure without any Republican support. This piece of legislation could potentially include some of the President's key priorities that couldn't cross the finish line in a bipartisan package. It may also include the PRO Act. We will have to wait and see once the fine print comes out of each committee. [Summary](#). [Full Text](#). [Details](#).

### **SBA News**

- **National Small Business Week Virtual Summit**  
September 13-15, 2021 SBA will be hosting the 2021 National Small Business Week Virtual Summit. To register for the National Small Business Week Virtual Summit and to learn more, please visit <http://www.sba.gov/NSBW>.
- **New Fact Sheets**  
SBA Office of Advocacy released two fact sheets: 1) [Supply Squeeze: Small Business Commodity Challenges](#) 2) [Small Business Facts Women-Owned Business Owners](#)

### **SURVEY! SURVEY! SURVEY!**

Please fill out our [survey](#) in partnership with Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP). The purpose of this survey is to learn from our respective members and obtain their thoughts on proposed legislative priorities of both the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress. Please share your voice!!

7/30/2021

Remember we will resume our Advocacy calls on **September 21 at 12 PM ET**. Mark your calendars! It will be here before we know it! If you missed yesterday's [webinar](#) with VP Kamala Harris and SBA Administrator Isabel Guzman, you also missed seeing NAWBO CEO Jen Earle representing women business owners across America.

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### **Biden Administration News:**

- **Streamlined Forgiveness:** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is launching a simplified application portal to allow borrowers with Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$150,000 or less through participating lenders to apply for forgiveness directly through the SBA. The new forgiveness platform will begin accepting applications from borrowers on August 4, 2021. In addition to the technology platform, the SBA is standing up a PPP customer service team to answer questions and directly assist borrowers with their forgiveness applications. **Borrowers that need assistance or have questions should call (877) 552-2692, Monday – Friday, 8 AM - 8 PM EST.**

- **Federal Government Contracting:** The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that the federal government exceeded its small business federal contracting goal, awarding 26.01 percent or \$145.7 billion in federal contract dollars to small businesses, a \$13 billion increase from the previous fiscal year.
- **Federal Worker Vaccination:** President Biden is directing all federal employees and onsite contractors to show that they are vaccinated or otherwise submit to regular coronavirus testing. This may cause the private sector to follow suit.
- **Nearly 70 Years of Serving:** The U.S. Small Business Administration today marks 68 years of service as a voice for America's 30 million small businesses and innovative startups. For nearly seven decades, the SBA has been a part of the small business journey for business owners and entrepreneurs, helping them start, grow, expand, and recover from disasters.

### Legislation Updates:

- The bipartisan group of 10 Senators and the White House announced that they reached an agreement on a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package. [Read the agreement summary.](#) It seems, as of last night, they've hit a hiccup on broadband. I'll keep you updated on developments as the Senate is trying to close out for their August recess soon.
- During this time, Congress is also trying to pass a budget resolution, an additional \$3.5 trillion package that includes funding for child care, education, healthcare, climate measures, and higher tax revenues. Moderates are struggling to stomach more money added to the national deficit.
- U.S. House Small Business Committee marked up several bills this week. All seven passed the committee. To watch a playback of the markup, please click [here](#). The items marked up included:
  - [H.R. 4256](#), "Investing in Main Street Act of 2021"
  - [H.R. 4481](#), "Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act"
  - [H.R. 4531](#), "7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act"
  - [H.R. 3469](#), "Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2021"
  - [H.R. 3462](#), "SBA Cyber Awareness Act"
  - [H.R. 4515](#), "Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2021"
  - [H.R. 4513](#), "Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2021"
- U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship Chair Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and U.S. Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho) today introduced the SBIC Working Group Act of 2021—legislation to make the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program more equitable.
  - The SBIC program, which Congress created in 1958, provides financing to small businesses with high growth potential but need long-term capital to scale. In the past 63 years, SBIC has invested more than \$100 billion in tens of thousands of small businesses, including many that grew into well-known companies such as Intel, FedEx, Apple, and Build-a-Bear.

- The bill would create a working group that consists of representatives from SBA, industry experts, academics, and existing SBIC funds with diverse management teams and/or investments in companies owned by underrepresented individuals. The bill would direct the working group to produce a report for Congress with policy recommendations for increasing gender, racial, and geographic diversity in SBIC.
- While SBIC is better at reaching underserved communities than the venture capital industry, a recent report found that of 1,063 SBIC investments last year, only 5 percent of the companies were owned by women, veterans, or minorities, and only 20 percent were located in low- and moderate-income areas.

7/16/21

Dear NAWBO Advocacy Group,

#### What's Coming Up?

Within a couple weeks, House Democrats are planning to vote on a spending package before the government funding deadline on September 30. The minibus would include seven out of 12 appropriations bills, including health programs, agriculture and the Treasury. Bills not included would be Defense, Homeland Security, State-Foreign Operations, Legislative Branch, and Commerce-Justice-Science.

#### What Happened This Week?

Democrats on the Senate Budget Committee [met](#) to discuss parameters for a legislative package they hope to pass through reconciliation. Remember, this is how the American Rescue plan passed earlier this year. The package would potentially include funding for climate provisions, childcare, among other things. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) hopes they can pass it before the August break. The partisan package is expected to cost trillions of dollars.

#### Upcoming Hearing:

- Committee on Small Business will hold a [virtual hearing](#) on "Strengthening the Cybersecurity Posture of America's Small Business Community" on **Tuesday, July 20 at 10:00 AM.**
- Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions will hold a [hearing](#) on "Banking the Unbanked: Exploring Private and Public Efforts to Expand Access to the Financial System" on **Wednesday, July 21 at 10:00 AM.**

#### Upcoming Events:

Public Private Strategies Institute will be hosting a business leader briefing with **Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Don Graves and NBA Hall of Famer & Chairman & CEO, Isiah International, Isiah Thomas on Infrastructure and the American Jobs Plan** on Tuesday, July 27 at 3:00 PM ET.

The Deputy Secretary will provide:

- An update on bipartisan infrastructure conversations, plus the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan
- Take some question and answer

[Register to Join Here](#)

Remember we will resume our Advocacy calls on **September 21 at 12 PM ET**. Mark your calendars!

**If you are no longer serving in the Public Policy or Advocacy Role for your chapter and would like to be removed from this list, please let me know. Alternatively, if you would like to forward this email to your new Advocacy Chair, please feel free to forward it and have them email me to be added to the list. We are still working on updating rosters, and I want to make sure everyone receives the information.**

While Congress is out this week, the President has been touting his American Families Plan and the bipartisan infrastructure bill ([Here](#), you will find a recent statement from CEO Jen Earle on the bipartisan infrastructure plan.). Still, he also released an [Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#). NAWBO was briefed on the order yesterday evening as one of the leading small business associations.

*What's an executive order?* For those of you new to advocacy, executive orders are not legislation. The President does not need approval from Congress. If Congress disagrees with the E.O., they may pass legislation that might make it difficult, or even impossible, to carry out the order, such as removing funding. However, only a sitting U.S. President may overturn an existing executive order by issuing another executive order to that effect.

This specific executive order is broken up into sections, including Labor Markets, Healthcare, Transportation, Agriculture, Internet Service, Technology, and Banking and Consumer Finance. It also establishes a White House Competition Council, led by the Director of the National Economic Council, to monitor progress on finalizing the initiatives in the Order and to coordinate the federal government's response to the rising power of large corporations in the economy.

Here are some of the highlights:

Labor

- Encourages the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to ban or limit non-compete agreements.
- Encourages the FTC to ban unnecessary occupational licensing restrictions that impede economic mobility.

- Encourages the FTC and DOJ to strengthen antitrust guidance to prevent employers from collaborating to suppress wages or reduce benefits by sharing wage and benefit information with one another.

#### Healthcare

- Directs HHS to standardize plan options in the National Health Insurance Marketplace so people can comparison shop more easily.

#### Transportation

- Directs the DOT to consider issuing clear rules requiring the refund of fees when baggage is delayed or when service isn't actually provided-like when the plane's WiFi or in-flight entertainment system is broken.
- Directs the DOT to consider issuing rules that require baggage, change, and cancellation fees to be clearly disclosed to the customer.
- Encourages the Federal Maritime Commission to ensure vigorous enforcement against shippers charging American exporters exorbitant charges.

#### Internet Service

- Encourages Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to prevent ISPs from making deals with landlords that limit tenants' choices.
- Encourages FCC Limit excessive early termination fees.
- Encourages FCC to restore net neutrality rules

#### Technology

- Announces an Administration policy of greater scrutiny of mergers, especially by dominant internet platforms, with particular attention to the acquisition of nascent competitors, serial mergers, the accumulation of data, competition by "free" products, and the effect on user privacy.

#### Banking and Consumer Finance

- Encourages the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to issue rules allowing customers to download their banking data and take it with them

On June 24, 2021, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) CEO Jen Earle met with White House leaders, including Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond, to discuss the needs of women business owners. The dialogue included aspects of the American Families Plan that would support women business owners and other legislative areas that NAWBO supports, including infrastructure investment. Following the meeting, NAWBO was pleased to see the White House announced a bipartisan infrastructure plan with Senate Democrats and Republicans. We believe that working together and across the aisle is imperative to supporting America's women business owners. We look forward to working with Congressional leaders to advance this important legislation.

The Senate is trying to close a deal by the end of the week before their two weeklong recess.

On June 16, 2021, NAWBO released its fourth report as part of its partnership with Gusto. In the second survey, we collected responses from 1,341 NAWBO members between May 3 and 14, 2021, asking questions across three main themes: the re-opening and the "new normal" of

the American economy, the economic challenges that remain, and tools business owners need to grow, and public policies to support women-owned businesses. The report is entitled, "**Re-opening for Business: the Tools, Tech and Policies Women Need to Succeed.**" To see all the reports, click [here](#).