



May 20, 2013

Honorable Members of the Committee
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Via electronic mail

Dear Members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) has long supported legislative efforts to strengthen and build upon the successes of the 1995 Unfunded Mandate Reform Act (UMRA). Improving UMRA by addressing its limitations is important to America's small businesses and our economy. The cost of federal mandates weighs more heavily on smaller businesses. Now more than ever, it is critical that federal policies are supportive of entrepreneurs and their efforts to create jobs and compete in the global marketplace.

We are pleased to support H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Representatives Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), James Lankford (R-OK), Mike McIntyre (D-NC) and Collin Peterson (D-MN), which improves UMRA by increasing public and government awareness of the costs associated with federal mandates. These mandates have real consequences for small businesses and local governments. And in an era of limited resources, the federal government needs to understand the costs and unintended consequences of its actions. H.R. 899 helps to do just that, and SBE Council is pleased that the committee will mark up the legislation this week.

H.R. 899 requires that *all* federal government agencies conduct UMRA analysis, which means 60 federal rulemaking agencies would be required to measure the costs (including indirect ones) that a final mandate imposes on the economy. H.R. 899 also requires consultation with stakeholders, such as small business owners, which will help agencies better understand the consequences and real costs of their

mandates. Furthermore, the legislation expands judicial review, which adds teeth to UMRA and will improve accountability.

The transparency and disclosure required by H.R. 899 is critically important as it will help lawmakers, the public, and the agencies themselves understand the scope and effect of unfunded federal mandates. These mandates are not cost-free. When the federal government issues a mandate aimed at small businesses, it requires entrepreneurs to expend resources, time and money, which has an impact on business profitability, job creation, and investment. H.R. 899 would require federal agencies to factor in these real-world consequences.

We strongly urge members of the Committee to support this important piece of legislation. Thank you, in advance, for your support of small business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kerrigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO

301 Maple Avenue West • Suite 690 • Vienna, VA 22180 • (703)-242-5840
www.sbecouncil.org

Protecting Small Business, Promoting Entrepreneurship