

Opening Statement of  
Chairman Steve Chabot  
House Committee on Small Business  
Hearing: "Making Washington Work For America's Small Businesses"  
March 22, 2017

Good morning. I call this hearing of the  
Committee on Small Business to order. I appreciate  
all of you being here, especially our witnesses who  
have taken the time to work with us on this hearing.  
Thank you for your efforts.

For those of you who follow our Committee, you know how relentless we are in our advocacy for America's 28 million small businesses. We constantly remind folks about how important small businesses are to the American economy. We say they make up 99 percent of all firms; we say that 48 percent of the people working today work for a small business; we talk about how they account for 46 percent of our gross national product. We do this because it is necessary. We have to continue to shout it from the rooftops because too often, some folks here in Washington take small businesses for granted.

Take for instance, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. Small business witness after small business witness has come before us (and constituent after constituent back home) and stated how unworkable the whole thing is. We hear stories of astronomical premium increases, severely limited choices, and little to no assistance for small businesses trying to help insure themselves and their employees.

Yet, there are folks out there who think that Obamacare is working just fine. Well, it's not, and small businesses are the ones left holding the bag.

Another problem that continually hinders small business growth is the avalanche of unnecessary and unworkable regulations. Because of the unique role small businesses have in the economy, regulations have a substantially higher impact on them than the rest of the economy.

In fact, a recent study by the National Association of Manufacturers found that small firms pay on average of \$2,041 more *per employee, per year* than their larger counterparts.

It doesn't get any easier for small businesses in the tax realm either. A study by the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy disclosed that small firms pay 67 percent more to comply with the tax code than large firms do.

The growing number of tax provisions, along with the fact that small firms frequently do not have an in-house accountant or tax attorney, means that small business owners must hire outside experts or add those duties to another employee's workload.

These issues are important because too often, small businesses get the short end of the stick which is counterproductive to the economic health of our nation.

This hearing is a little bit different than others we do. Instead of focusing on one topic, we simply asked the witnesses to give us advice on the policies and initiatives that we can do to help them the most. By getting input now, we can focus our efforts throughout the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to serve our constituency as responsibly and effectively as possible.

We have an excellent panel of witnesses today and I again want to make note of how important it is that you are with us today. I now yield to Ms. Velázquez for her opening remarks.