



**TAKING CARE OF SMALL BUSINESS: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER SBA**  
**April 5, 2017**

**AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY**

Good morning. I call this hearing to order.

Here at the Small Business Committee, we have Members from all walks of life, all parts of the country, and certainly, all political views. That's why we take every opportunity to remind ourselves why we're here, serving on this particular Committee together. We know that every small business started with an idea. In the 21st century, there are more ways than ever for the federal government to either help those ideas become reality and create jobs, or squash them before they ever get off the ground.

I believe we have a new partner at the Small Business Administration who understands this as well as anyone. Linda McMahon is a living example of what can happen when risks are weighed, chances are taken, and creativity is unleashed. When that happens, the world is your arena.

My longtime friend, our Ranking Member, often says that there's no such thing as a Republican small business or a Democrat small business—they're just small businesses trying to succeed. I agree. And I believe the resounding support Administrator McMahon received through her Senate confirmation process is a sign that she shares our approach.

This Committee has long believed that the SBA is an agency in need of attention. The loan programs that provide crucial access to capital need vigilant oversight. The training and technical assistance programs that reach people through local SBDCs need to keep up with rapidly changing times. Our job is to ensure that SBA's programs are effectively and efficiently serving the millions of Americans who work at, own, or want to start a small business.



We ended the last Congress with a lot of unanswered questions from the SBA about how the agency will address longstanding deficiencies in management, information technology, and program oversight. It's our intention that today will mark the official start of a collaborative relationship that will address these issues and any more that arise in the future.

Administrator McMahon has a record of spotting opportunity where few others could. I think it's also safe to say that she doesn't put up with much nonsense. We're looking forward to hearing directly from her today about her plans for making the SBA a better agency.

Madam Administrator, welcome to the first of what I'm sure will be many productive conversations with this Committee.

I yield to our Ranking Member, Ms. Velázquez, for her opening statement.

