

Fairfax County Small Business Commission
Small Business: Legislative and Policy News
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Congress Poised To Halt State-Mandated Small Business Retirement Plans.

Two proposed Congressional resolutions will seek to end state and city mandated retirement saving programs which will not only affect fifty-five (55) million American workers, but also impact many small businesses nationwide.

The U.S. House Resolution 66, sponsored by Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI) would invalidate an August DOL ruling which permitted states to mandate retirement saving programs for workers who lacked a retirement plan. Similarly, House Resolution 67, sponsored by Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL) intends to vanquish a December DOL rule which offered the same programs to the nation's city employees. The existing state subsidized programs benefit small businesses and their employees by offering low cost voluntary retirement plans.

The noted Republican proposed resolutions faced oppositions from a number of sources. AARP Chief Advocacy Officer, Nancy LeaMond stated "The lack of options to save for retirement at work is a persistent problem that demands action today. States desire flexibility to move forward with innovative reforms—Congress should not curtail state efforts to promote retirement savings." The resolutions allegedly shift the financial burden to small businesses, which unlike local and state governments lack the funding to offer retirement programs for uncovered employees.

Representatives Walberg and Rooney defended their proposed resolutions by asserting that the new legislation will "reduce costly red tape."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ashleabeling/2017/02/10/congress-poised-to-halt-state-mandated-small-business-retirement-plans/#208dd3c57b5e>

The Impact of the Second Immigration Executive Order on Small Businesses.

On March 6, 2017, President Trump issued a revised executive order banning travel from six different countries into the U.S. Many argue that this executive order will have a negative impact on small businesses.

The new Executive Order regarding travel ban on immigration has reportedly created a series of systematic problems for small businesses nationwide. The uncertainty for the return of the employees of small businesses from their native land after a vacation or a business trip is an example of this dilemma. Similarly, recruitment of essential foreign employees for some small businesses will likely hinder the growth or operations of such companies. Professor Neil Ruiz of George Washington University expressed similar concerns about the immediate impact of the immigration order on small businesses and their employees.

Many small businesses owners are anxious that the President's immigration executive order is already hurting small businesses. In a New Jersey Spotlight article, (The Main Street Alliance) a national network of small businesses asserted that the President's executive order and the rhetoric surrounding it could result in a ten-billion Dollar loss in tourism revenues.

Small business owners in the tech industry have also voiced their opposition to the executive order. Samia Bahsoun, a New Jersey small business owner stressed that if the President's Order were upheld, investments in small businesses would substantially decrease.

Attorney Generals from six states, including Maryland, argued that the executive order was unconstitutional and harmful for small businesses. U.S. District Judge, Derrick Watson agreed and on March 15, issued a temporary restraining order on the ban. The Trump administration condemned Judge Watson's ruling, calling it "unprecedented."

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/17/03/16/immigrant-entrepreneur-argues-trump-travel-ban-is-bad-for-small-businesses/>