

New businesses create almost all net new jobs in the United States. Entrepreneurs create stronger communities, grow GDP, create homegrown jobs, increase community wealth, diversity goods and services, increase lifetime incomes, and fight inequality and poverty. Yet government processes and the system overall make it harder on them to start and grow with many barriers. Survey data from the Kauffman Foundation shows that entrepreneurs are left out. 81% of entrepreneurs says that government favors big businesses over them. 69% say government doesn't care about them at all.

Nonetheless, the entrepreneurial spirit is deep in our DNA. 94% of voters – nearly unanimously across party lines – say “it’s important to America’s future” that citizens have a fair opportunity to start and grow their own businesses. However, 92% of voters say that starting a new business today is difficult or very difficult. Young businesses create jobs, while older businesses shed jobs. This bill sets the path to remove obstacles and barriers that hinder entrepreneurship.

This policy expands entrepreneurial opportunity for all. Having an Office of Entrepreneurship would help entrepreneurs with a dedicated liaison for them inside state government. Coordinating policies affecting entrepreneurs, cutting red tape, streamlining processes, and tracking important entrepreneurial data and metrics on government contracts for young companies is vital. One government contract can make a major difference on the trajectory of a young company’s growth and offer real legitimacy for a newer business. Entrepreneurs need at least one person at the state government level in North Dakota working on their behalf who eat, breathe, and sleep their issues and help them navigate and streamline processes, as well as working to enhance entrepreneurship as economic development in the state.

This policy will remove barriers and streamline processes to starting, advance homegrown job creation, and build a stronger connection between entrepreneurs and state government. It’s an impactful first step along the path to enabling every aspiring entrepreneur to start and grow a business for the benefit of their communities and North Dakota. In recent years, Nevada, Missouri, Kansas, Michigan, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico [have all created an Office of Entrepreneurship](#) or have a dedicated official inside state government dedicated to entrepreneurship and new, young businesses. Additionally, Nebraska, Washington, West Virginia, Indiana, Hawaii and Alaska are looking to also do so in 2025.

Please support this measure because entrepreneurs are critical to the North Dakota’s economy – for jobs, growth, incomes, lowering inequality, lowering poverty, competitiveness – and it’s time to unleash the entrepreneurial power of North Dakota’s citizens.