

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
309 3rd St SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Loeffler:

We are writing to express concern with your March 6, 2025, announcement that the Small Business Administration (SBA) plans to relocate six regional offices in cities across the United States, including Chicago. This announcement—which contained few details about SBA’s plans for the relocation—has created confusion and chaos for small businesses owners across Illinois.

The SBA’s announcement last week claimed to be moving these six regional offices to “more accessible locations that...comply with federal immigration law.” Chicago should not be used as a political pawn in President Trump’s mission to dehumanize immigrants. Rather than working with Congress to enact meaningful immigration reform, the Trump Administration needlessly is removing SBA offices from Chicago and other cities, cutting off critical loan assistance and support for new and growing entrepreneurs.

In addition to SBA’s announcement that its Chicago regional office would be relocated, the so-called Department of Government Efficiency announced on March 5, 2025, that the lease for the SBA office building in Springfield, Illinois, had been terminated. Due to the lack of transparency around these two actions, we are deeply concerned that they could leave Illinois with no SBA office at all, making it more difficult for Illinoisans to access small business loan programs, federal contracts, and disaster recovery assistance.

Small businesses form the backbone of Illinois’ economy. Illinois is home to roughly 1.3 million small businesses that support 2.4 million jobs, accounting for 44.1 percent of the state’s employment in 2020. Of these small businesses, 42.4 percent are women-owned, 20.9 percent are minority-owned, and 4.4 percent are veteran-owned. Small businesses in Illinois also exported \$17.1 billion worth of goods in 2021, or 27.5 percent of all Illinois exports that year.

To better understand how the relocation of SBA’s Chicago office may impact our constituents, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions by April 2, 2025:

1. When does SBA plan to begin the relocation of the Chicago office?
2. Where within the Great Lakes region will the Chicago office be relocated?

3. Prior to the announcement on March 6, 2025, did SBA undertake any examination to ensure that services to help small businesses throughout Illinois and the entire Great Lakes region will not be impacted by a relocation?
  - a. If yes, please outline how SBA plans to guarantee that services for small businesses will not be impacted.
4. How many federal jobs will be impacted by the relocation, and will federal employees currently employed in the Chicago office be given the option to relocate?
5. With the notification on March 5, 2025, that the lease for SBA's office in Springfield, Illinois, has been terminated, will there be any SBA office located in Illinois after the Chicago office is relocated?
  - a. If not, please outline SBA's detailed plan to ensure that Illinois small businesses can still access federal support to start and grow their businesses.
6. The SBA's March 6, 2025, announcement stated that the "invasion of illegal aliens has jeopardized both the lives of American citizens and the livelihoods of American small business owners, who have each become victims of Joe Biden's migrant crime spree."
  - a. Please elaborate on the impacts small business owners have experienced and the harms referenced.
  - b. How are these harms reported to and tracked by the SBA?
7. The SBA's March 6, 2025, announcement also indicated that the SBA would be implementing a new "citizenship verification" requirement for its loan programs.
  - a. How are loan determinations made by the SBA and what documentation is requested of individuals filing applications for loans?
  - b. What were the eligibility requirements for an SBA loan prior to March 1, 2025?
  - c. What changes are being implemented to better address the concerns of ineligible applicants receiving loans?

We appreciate your timely attention to this important matter.

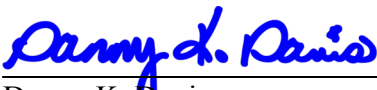
Sincerely,



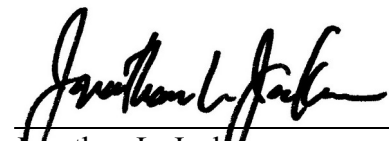
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

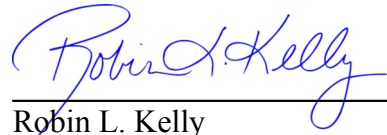


Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



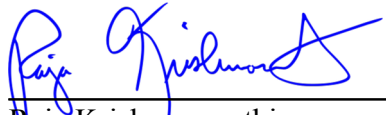
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



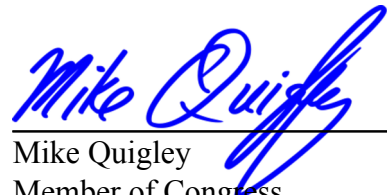
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Member of Congress



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