



# JUNE 2025

# Strategy & Legislative Newsletter

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## 2025 Legislative Roundup



As we head into the summer stretch, Congress is navigating a busy legislative period that will shape federal policy and spending for the year ahead. Three major efforts are driving the budget landscape: the reconciliation package, the annual Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process, and the proposed rescissions bill.

On 22 May, the House narrowly passed the reconciliation package – the One Big Beautiful Bill Act – by a 215-214 vote. The bill includes major policy priorities across health care, tax, defense, homeland security and energy. It now awaits Senate action, where Committee work is ongoing with an eye towards passage before 4 July.

At the same time, lawmakers are working to advance the regular Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill under extremely tight self-imposed deadlines. The Senate has made it clear it will delay actions on appropriations until reconciliation is complete. Still,

the House is moving forward with markups and has already approved Defense and Veterans Appropriations out of Full Committee. Given the tight timeline before the end of the fiscal year, it is widely anticipated Congress will need to approve a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) in September.

Meanwhile, the House advanced a targeted rescission package aimed at rescinding unspent, unobligated discretionary funds. These funds are aimed at foreign aid and public broadcasting funds. The legislation is now pending Senate approval.

NVSBC members should stay engaged as these developments and appropriations become available. The coming year will offer both challenges and opportunities to make your voices heard.

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*Authored by the Van Scoyoc Associates Team*

## NVSBC and Van Scoyoc Associates

Working with Van Scoyoc Associates, NVSBC is developing and implementing a focused engagement plan with both congress and federal agencies on behalf of our members and Veteran owned small businesses throughout the nation.

### Meet the VSA Team



**Col. Mike Shupp, USMC (Ret.)**  
*Vice President (Team Leader)*

- Lead's Defense Practice
- 16-years VSA Experience
- Retired Marine with 27-years of service
- Former Legislative Assistant to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



**Jennifer Cave**  
*Associate Vice President*

- 16-years VSA Experience
- Hill experience with Sen John Warner of Virginia, SASC and with the NSC
- Assist with execution of engagement strategies, research and analysis



**Madhu Thyagarajan**  
*Legislative Assistant*

- Joined the VSA team in October 2024
- Interned with Department of State
- Assists with Congressional & Federal Agency research and analysis focused on Veteran Affairs, Small Business, Defense and Homeland Security Issues



[Van Scoyoc Associates \(VSA\)](#) is a bipartisan, bicameral government relations firm comprised of talented and experienced policy experts. Established more than 30-years ago, VSA has earned its reputation as one of the most successful and highly regarded lobbying firms in Washington, DC.

## NVSBC 2025 Legislative Priorities

National Veteran Small Business Coalition serves as the leading advocate for the 50,000+ Veteran owned small businesses serving as federal contractors. Working with Van Scoyoc Associates, we are developing and implementing a focused engagement plan with both Congress and Federal Agencies on behalf of our members and Veteran owned small businesses throughout the nation. As we embark on a new cycle with the 119th Congress, NVSBC and Van Scoyoc Associates are working diligently to define and advance legislative priorities that will most effectively support the Veteran small business community. Engaging our members is essential to this process, and while our priorities are yet to be finalized, we are actively exploring several key focus areas:

**NVSBC Counseling and Mentoring Program:** Strengthening and expanding programs that provide guidance and support to Veteran entrepreneurs.

**Consistent Sole-Source Authority for SDVOSBs:** Ensuring Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) have sole-source contracting guidelines consistent with those of the 8(a) program, for fairness and clarity in federal procurement.

Your suggestions are important and guide NVSBC's legislative efforts. If you have any issues that you would like to bring to our attention, please contact us at [members@nvsbc.org](mailto:members@nvsbc.org).

## 2025 Veteran Owned Small Business Legislation

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Federal Acquisition Revision (FAR). NVSBC is monitoring and ensuring the interests of Veteran-Owned businesses are considered and guarded in the FAR rewrite (otherwise known as FAR 2.0).

NVSBC is actively supporting the following Legislation:

### [H.R. 2804, Protecting Small Business Competitions Act for 2025](#)

This legislation was introduced by Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-07) in April 2025. The Act would codify the “Rule of Two” to ensure fair competition for small businesses, broaden the industrial base, and promote economic growth. It will not only encourage Veteran Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business owners but will support the entire small business community. This legislation has been referred to the House Small Business Committee.

NVSBC encourages our members to contact your Member of Congress and Senators to support these pieces of legislation for Veteran Owned Small Businesses.

Find your Member of Congress here: [www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative).

## The Rescissions Act of 2025

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On 12 June 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly approved the Rescissions Act of 2025 (H.R.4) by a 214-212 vote. This bill implements President Trump's request to rescind \$9.4 billion in previously approved discretionary spending. This measure is a part of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) initiatives to achieve fiscal efficiency. Despite being pitched as deficit-reducing, these cuts have raised concerns about long-term fiscal impacts. The bill now goes to the Senate, where only a simple majority is required to pass the bill. The Senate must act by 18 July 2025, or the rescinded funds will automatically be released to agencies.



### Breakdown of the Cuts:

\$8.3 billion rescinded from foreign aid and international assistance. Includes funding for USAID and Department of State Overseas Programs

\$1.1 billion removed from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Eliminates CPB funding for NPR and PBS – covering fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act: Continued

The Senate is in a critical four-week period as lawmakers race to finalize the reconciliation bill – formally titled the One Big Beautiful Bill Act – before the July 4th recess. With only five legislative days remaining on the calendar, the pressure is mounting for Senate leadership to produce and pass their version of this legislation.

As a reminder, the House narrowly passed its version of the bill on 22 May 2025, with a 215-214 vote. Since then, Senate Committees have been steadily advancing their respective sections. So far, the following Committees have release legislative text:

Agriculture	Energy and Natural Resources
Armed Services	Environment and Public Works
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Finance

Among these, the Finance Committee’s section has the most attention, as it contains high-stakes provisions related to:

- The future of Medicare and Medicaid
- Revisions to the 2017 tax cuts
- Homeland Security measures, including immigration and border enforcement

Senate Majority Leader John Thune has publicly committed to finalizing the full package before the July 4th recess. However, skepticism remains on both sides of the aisle. Concerns have been raised about the bill’s scope, fiscal impacts, and the compressed timeline, with some lawmakers indicating they may push for additional amendments or delay tactics if key issues aren’t addressed.

Impact on Veteran Small Business Owners

While the full legislative text is still being reviewed, early indications suggest that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act could have several implications – both opportunities and concerns – for Veteran-owned small businesses. The following provisions were included in both the House and Senate reconciliation bills.

- Access to Capital and Lending Programs.** The Banking Committee’s section may expand access to SBA-backed loans and streamline the application process for Veterans.
- Federal Contracting Provisions. Several draft provisions would modify set-aside requirements for federal contracts.** While the intent is to streamline procurement, there is concern that consolidating categories could inadvertently dilute protections for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.
- Tax Reforms Impacts.** If the Finance Committee’s changes to the 2017 tax cuts are enacted, Veteran entrepreneurs could see shifts in deductions, capital gains tax rates, and credits for hiring Veterans or operating in Opportunity Zones.
- Workforce and Training Programs.** The HELP Committee is considering new workforce development investments, including funds earmarked for Veterans transitioning to civilian life.



# Spotlight on Veterans in Congress

## Senator/Lieutenant Colonel Joni Ernst, ARNG (Ret) (R-IA)

***Each issue, we spotlight a Member of Congress, regardless of party, who has demonstrated leadership on Veteran or Small Business issues.***

Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) brings a blend of battlefield experience and entrepreneurial focus to the United States Senate. As a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard and the first female combat Veteran elected to the Senate. Her commitment to Veteran communities, particularly through economic empowerment and small business support, has positioned her as a leading voice for those who have worn the uniform and are now transitioning into civilian life. Ernst's military service spans over 23 years, including a combat tour in Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



One of Ernst's key missions in the Senate has been ensuring that Veterans are supported in their post-service endeavors. She has led bipartisan efforts to expand opportunities to Veterans to succeed in the small business arena, while also increasing accountability across federal programs designed to support them.

In 2023, she introduced and helped pass the Stop Stolen Valor for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Contractors Act, included in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This legislation closes loopholes that allowed fraud in the SDVOSB certification process, ensuring that federal contracts reserved for Veteran entrepreneurs truly go to those who earned them.

In the 119th Congress, Senator Ernst serves as the Chair of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, where she leads the charge of reducing bureaucratic red tape, expanding access to capital, and uplifting

Veteran entrepreneurs. In addition, she is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Her own transition from combat to Congress fuels Senator Ernst's determination to ensure that Veterans are supported with the tools and resources they deserve to succeed.

If you would like to learn more about Senator Ernst, please see [here](#).

# Calendar of Congressional Events

## Congressional Schedule and Key Dates

### JUNE 2025

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

#### June Calendar

- 16-18 June. House Out for District Work Period (Only Senate in Session)
- 19 June. Juneteenth (Federal Holiday)

### JULY 2025

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

#### July Calendar

- 4 July. Independence Day
- 4 July. Senate Goal to Pass Reconciliation Bill
- 24 July. House Leaves for August Recess (Only Senate in Session at the end of July)

■ Both chambers in session   ■ House only in session   ■ Senate only in session   ■ Federal Holiday

**Please see a joint full-year House and Senate 2024 Congressional Calendar [here](#).**

\*While congress usually likes to adjourn on Thursday evenings to travel back to their states/districts for the weekends, please note that the Senate is planning to stay in session for most Fridays.



## June Legislative Focus Areas



**National Veteran  
Small Business  
Coalition**



Over the past month, VSA has actively supported the following activities,

VSA supported NVSBC meetings with Congressional Offices to discuss FY26 legislative priorities.

VSA, on behalf of NVSBC, sent a letter of support to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate and House Small Business Committees (Offices of Chairwoman Ernst, Ranking Member Markey, Chairman Williams, and Ranking Member Velazquez) in support of H.R. 2804 and its efforts to codify the “Rule of Two”.

VSA engaged Professional Staff Members on the Senate Small Business Committee regarding the NVSBC letter of support for H.R. 2804.

VSA met with Professional Staff Members on the House Small Business Committee to further discuss H.R. 2804. Staff members expressed there is a lack of transparency in the process, and they are working diligently to gain more clarity. VSA plans to stay engaged with this issue, report items of interest back to NVSBC, and support NVSBC engagements to help further legislation that serves the Veteran Small Business Community.

### **NVSBC is the Lifeline for the Veteran Small Business Community**

Facing the challenges of Federal contracting and uncertain funding initiatives, NVSBC provides opportunities to support one another as Veterans always do.

***NOW is the time to ACT.***

**NVSBC needs *YOUR HELP* and *YOUR INVOLVEMENT*! Please *REACH OUT* to your fellow veteran business owners. Let them know that *HELP IS OUT THERE*. Let them know what we are doing to help them. ASK THEM TO *JOIN NVSBC* today to be part of this great expansion!**

# Golfer Registration for the Charity Golf Tournament is Open!



## Tee up for the hottest tournament of the summer

Registration is now open for sponsors and teams. This event has sold out 4 years in a row – don't wait!



**NVSBC**  
Education  
Foundation  
Charity Golf  
Tournament

Registration includes 18 holes, a shared cart, breakfast, snacks, and drinks, followed by a networking lunch.

The NVSBC Golf Tournament supports the Educational Foundation for Veteran Small Business in the federal marketplace.



<https://sites.google.com/nvsbc.org/charity-golf>

### Golfer registration for the NVSBC Education Foundation Charity Golf Tournament is now open!

We expect another record turnout (and golfer foursomes to sell out) as colleagues from across the industry meet for 18 holes of friendly competition. Registration is now open for sponsors and players (individual or a team of 4).

**Register today before all the golfing spots fill up!**

**And, the only way to guarantee a spot at the tee box is by becoming a sponsor.**

Many of our sponsorships include golfer registrations for four or more. That's a triple benefit because you'll be supporting NVSBC's educational efforts, promoting your

company to an influential crowd, and getting to play the incredible Army-Navy Country Club.

We have a sponsorship opportunity for every business and every budget. Our Sponsorship Prospectus has all the details and the benefits

Secure your spot with a sponsorship, and then mark your calendar for Monday, August 11. We've had picture-perfect weather and sold-out crowds for four years, and we're going for the fifth! (edited)

## Donate to the Silent Auction Charity Golf Outing



NVSBC is excited to announce our upcoming **Silent Auction Charity Golf Outing** an event dedicated to raising funds for the NVSBC Education Foundation.

As we prepare for this special day, we are reaching out to our community for support as we are seeking donations for our silent auction and would be incredibly grateful for contributions such as:

- Sports memorabilia
- Tickets to events (sports, concerts, theater)
- Spa packages
- Yeti Coolers
- Outdoor gear
- Foursome at a private Golf Club
- Any other valuable items or experiences

Whether you have a direct connection to these items or know someone who does, any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Please contact **Rebecca Kane** at [rebecca.kane@nvsbc.org](mailto:rebecca.kane@nvsbc.org) to arrange your donation or for any questions.

**All auction items are due no later than July 18 and will be featured in an online auction only, live to NVSBC's full community.**