



**NATIONAL VETERAN
SMALL BUSINESS
COALITION**

Strategy & Legislative

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

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2026 Legislative Roundup

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Congress is back in session this week, with several significant policy and budget issues under consideration. With the war continuing in the Middle East, the Department of Homeland Security remains shut down with no clear path forward. The White House, Pentagon, and Congressional leaders are beginning talks about a Defense supplemental funding package to support efforts in Iran. The package could be \$100 billion or more. It is unlikely that any such request will reach Congress this week.

At the same time, Congress is actively preparing for the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Authorization and Appropriations cycle:

- FY27 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House Armed Services Committee closed its internal portal for policy submissions at the end of February. The portal is expected to briefly reopen following the release of the FY2027 President's Budget Request. House offices set deadlines for the end of February to stay in agreement

with Committee guidelines and have begun consideration of requests submitted for their office.

- FY27 Appropriations. The House Appropriations Committee (HAC) released guidance establishing 20 March 2026 as the deadline for Member offices to submit their requests. In accordance with the guidelines, House Subcommittees established deadlines as early as 6 March 2026. HAC Chairman Tom Cole has stated he will not begin Committee markups of these bills until topline funding levels are established. The Senate is following a slightly delayed timeline with Senate Appropriations Committee guidelines only expected after the release of the FY27 President's Budget Request, which could come as early as the week of 30 March 2026.

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
- 18-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

- 18-years VSA Experience
- Hill experience with Senator John Warner of Virginia, SASC and with the NSC
- Assists 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 2026 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. 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 we are actively advocating for these key focus areas,

- **Expand Congressional and Executive Branch Advocacy.** Highlight NVSBC activities, expand engagements, and seek support for legislative priorities that create opportunities for Veteran small business owners.
- **Legislative and Executive Policy Oversight.** Monitor, introduce, shape, and endorse legislation and policy initiatives that support Veteran small business owners.
- **NVSBC Counseling and Mentoring Program.** Strengthen and expand Veteran workforce and entrepreneurial development programs.

In this ever-changing climate, NVSBC and VSA are committed to furthering your legislative priorities by expanding Congressional, Federal, and Executive engagements. 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.

2026 Veteran Owned Small Business Legislation

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:

In March 2026, Congress advanced key small business innovation legislation, including passage of the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act, signaling continued momentum toward strengthening and securing federal R&D programs for small businesses.

➤ **S. 3971 – Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act**

This bill was introduced by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) in March 2026. The measure would reauthorize through FY2031 and modify the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and related pilot programs. The bill expands the requirements for federal agencies administering these programs to evaluate the security risks of the small businesses that apply for awards under the programs, directs agencies to set maximum number of proposals per fiscal year, expands the training requirements for agencies' contracting officers, and establishes strategic breakthrough allocations for critical technology areas. This legislation is being sent to the President's desk this week after passing the Senate on 3 March 2026 and the House on 17 March 2026.

Several bipartisan bills introduced in 2025 remain under consideration in the 119th Congress, focusing on expanding opportunities, improving procurement practices, and strengthening support for Veteran-owned small businesses.

➤ **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.

➤ **H.R. 865 – Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act**

This bill was introduced by Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY-01) in January 2025. To increase the number of Service-Disabled Veteran Small Business (SDVOSB) awards, H.R. 865 requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) provide training to the employees of any federal agency that has not met the goal of awarding at least 3% of its prime contracts and subcontracts to SDVOSB. This legislation has been referred to the House Small Business Committee.

➤ **H.R. 3239 / S. 1660 – Research Advancing to Market Production for Innovators Act**

This bill was introduced by Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-06) in May 2025. This bipartisan legislation is an important step forward in modernizing and strengthening the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. By streamlining and accelerating the award process, designating Technology Commercialization Officers at participating agencies, expanding technical assistance, and creating fast-track opportunities for commercialization, this bill will ensure that more small business innovations successfully transition into deployable solutions. This legislation has been referred to the House Small Business Committee; House Science, Space and Technology Committee, and House Judiciary Committee.

2026 Veteran Owned Small Business Legislation

➤ [H.R. 5100 – To Extend the SBIR and STTR Programs, and for Other Purposes](#)

This bill was introduced by Rep. Roger Williams (R-TX-25) in September 2025. The measure would extend the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs through Sept. 30, 2026. Authorities for the two programs are set to lapse after Sept. 30, which could threaten billions in funds awarded to small businesses under the programs. This legislation has been referred to the House Small Business Committee and House Science, Space and Technology Committee for consideration. This legislation has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Small Business Committee for consideration.

➤ [H.R. 4305 – DUMP Red Tape Act](#)

This bill was introduced by Rep. Toney Wied (R-WI-08) in August 2025. The measure establishes a requirement for the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to continue to operate and maintain the Red Tape Hotline, which receives notifications from small entities about the burden of complying with applicable rules, guidance, policy statements, or other activities of a federal agency. This legislation has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee for consideration.

➤ [S. 1591 – Acquisition Reform and Consolidation for Accountability \(ARCA\) Act of 2025](#)

This bill was introduced by Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) in May 2025. The measure takes a significant step toward improving the efficiency, accountability, and consistency of VA's acquisition and procurement operations. By establishing an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition and Innovation, serving as the VA's Chief Acquisition Officer, this legislation will consolidate oversight of VA's numerous acquisition entities and create a unified structure responsible for managing logistics, innovation, and contracting. This legislation passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent on 11 December. It will now move to the House for consideration.

➤ [S. 3171 – Veteran Entrepreneurship Empowerment Act](#)

This bill was introduced by Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) in November 2025. The measure would address financial barriers to SBA's two main lending programs, the 7(a) and 504 loan programs, for veteran entrepreneurs by decreasing down payment requirements and waiving fees on SBA loans of up to \$1 million to veterans. Borrowers contribute a down payment, typically around 10% of the loan amount, and pay fees, such as a guaranty fee and servicing fee, on SBA loans. The measure also directs the Small Business Administration (SBA) to collect and publicize data on reservists and military spouses utilizing lending and entrepreneurial development programs administered by the SBA. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

2026 Veteran Owned Small Business Legislation

➤ **S. 3173 – Stop 8(a) Contracting Fraud Act**

This bill was introduced by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) in November 2025. The measure would prohibit the SBA from awarding new 8(a) sole source contracts until the SBA completes a full audit of the 8(a) program and submits a detailed report of its findings to the appropriate congressional committees. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

➤ **Better Utilization Infrastructure for Lasting Development of Veterans Businesses Act of 2025 (BUILD Act)**

Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ) reached out to NVSBC to get their input on this legislation before it is officially introduced. At a high level, the bill would require that at least 3 percent of certain federal highway and public transportation funding be expended through veteran-owned small businesses. The bill also directs DOT to establish uniform certification criteria, including a personal net-worth limitation for qualifying veteran owners. NVSBC shared their concerns and position on the personal net-worth limitation of the legislation.

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.

Bill Renewing SBIR/STTR Programs Passes Both Chambers of Congress

On 17 March 2026, the House passed bipartisan legislation that would extend the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs through the end of Fiscal Year 2031. This 5-year reauthorization comes after authorization of the programs lapsed on 30 September 2025. This reauthorization has been highly anticipated as both programs have been around for over three decades and are routinely reauthorized.

The measure was sent to the House on 3 March 2026, following a voice vote in the Senate. The House passed this bill with a 345–41 vote, all but one Democrat and forty Republicans voting in favor. Those who didn't vote in favor stated it was not for lack of support of small business programs, but rather a refusal to approve any Senate legislation until the chamber passes the SAVE America Act.

See here for key provisions of the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Bill:

- **Federal Agency Set-Asides.** Federal agencies with large annual research budgets (Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, etc.) are required to set aside millions of dollars to award small businesses
- **Strategic Breakthrough Phase II.** Allows major SBIR agencies (such as Department of Defense) to award sequential phase II awards up to \$30 million with required matching funds
- **Application Limits.** Requires each agency to establish an annual application limit using a fiscal-year, solicitation, or topic-based approach. Limits become effective beginning FY2027.
- **Stronger Research Security.** Establishes clear baseline standards for foreign ties due diligence, minimum standards for denials, a structured process to communicate denial rationale while preserving national security discretion and expands identified foreign security risks.
- **Phase III Transition Improvements.** Improves “valley of death” transition through required acquisition workforce training and direction to develop simplified and standardized Phase III procedures.

At the time of report, the bill is awaiting Presidential approval but is expected to be signed into law this week.

FY27 Appropriations Update

FY27 Appropriations Update

Impact to Veteran Owned Small Businesses

Please note, as we turn our attention to the FY27 appropriations cycle, we are still monitoring the status of the Department of Homeland Security shutdown and will provide updates as they come.

Congress has been operating on an expedited timeline to ensure timely completion of the FY27 process. At the time of report, the White House is indicating the FY27 President's Budget Request could be released as early as the week of 30 March.

House Update. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole announced the Committee deadline for accepting member requests is various dates in March (see [here](#) for subcommittee specific deadlines). In accordance with this, each House Office set their respective deadlines, some as early as 6 March. Chairman Cole has said he will not begin Committee markups of the bills until the topline funding levels are set for each bill.

Senate Update. The Senate Appropriations Committee is yet to issue guidance for the FY27 appropriations process. Member offices have indicated guidance is expected only after the release of the FY27 President's Budget Request.

- As Congress did not reach a final agreement on the DHS spending bill, the government has entered a partial shutdown, which has now lasted over 30-days.
- VSA is working with NVSBC to advocate for SBA and VOSB/SDVOSB programs in the FY27 appropriations bills.

Status of the 12 Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Bills

■ Completed ■ Skipped ■ In Progress ■ Still to Complete



FY27 National Defense Authorization Act

FY27 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Impact to Veteran Owned Small Businesses

The FY27 NDAA process is well underway. The House Appropriations Committee closed their portal for policy requests at the end of February. Member offices have begun their review and consideration of the submitted requests. See below for a tentative timeline of activity.

March: Congress will hold Combatant Command Hearings

April – May: Budget hearings with the Service Secretaries and Chiefs

It is unclear when the FY27 NDAA markup will begin. The process remains dependent on the release of the FY27 President's Budget Request and the availability of Congress as it is now balancing the consideration of a potential Defense supplemental.

- The annual NDAA establishes policy for the Department of Defense but also authorizes funding. However, programs must be appropriated to receive funds.
- The NDAA is considered an annual must-pass piece of legislation.
- This bill is often seen as a vehicle for small business initiatives.
- VSA is closely monitoring the FY27 NDAA process and will report items of interest as they come to fruition.

Status of the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act



Calendar of Congressional Events

Congressional Schedule and Key Dates

MARCH 2026

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				

March Calendar

- TBD. Release of President's Budget Request (could slip to late March/early April)
- 9-13 March. Only Senate in Session
- 10 March. Huntsville Engagement Lunch
- 11 March. NVSBC DC Metro Engagement Dinner
- 25 March. NVSBC Tampa Engagement Dinner

APRIL 2026

			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		

April Calendar

- 1 April. NVSBC San Diego Engagement Dinner
- 8 April. NVSBC DC Metro Engagement Dinner
- 13 April. Only Senate in Session
- 15 April. NVSBC Philadelphia Engagement Dinner
- 24 April – 1 May. House Out for District Work Period (Only Senate in Session)
- 29 April. NVSBC Hampton Roads Engagement Lunch
- 29 April. NVSBC San Antonio Engagement Dinner
-

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

Please see a joint full-year House and Senate 2026 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.

March Legislative Focus Areas



**National Veteran
Small Business
Coalition**



Over the past month, VSA has actively supported NVSBC in the following activities:

- NVSBC/VSA met with staff from the House Veterans Affairs Committee to discuss the importance of the Acquisition Reform and Cost Assessment (ARCA) Act. The ARCA Act of 2025 takes a significant step toward improving the efficiency, accountability, and consistency of VA's acquisition and procurement operations. By establishing an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition and Innovation, serving as the VA's Chief Acquisition Officer, this legislation will consolidate oversight of VA's numerous acquisition entities and create a unified structure responsible for managing logistics, innovation, and contracting.
- NVSBC/VSA have been meeting with Member offices and Subcommittee Professional Staff Members to discuss NVSBC's FY27 legislative request for the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill titled "Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) Scale and Success Training Program". This request looks to provide the necessary resources for follow-on entrepreneurial training through the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the success of Veteran business owners.
- NVSBC/VSA are pleased to report the reauthorization of the SBIR/STTR programs and thank both the Senate and House Small Business Committee Members and Professional Staff for their constant communication and tireless work to support the Veteran Small Business Community.

NOW is the time to ACT.

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.

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!

VETS 26: June 1-4 in New Orleans!



REGISTER • SPONSOR • EXHIBIT

VETS 26
New Orleans
CONFERENCE June 1-4, 2026

HOSTED BY

PRESENTED BY
J.P.Morgan

Register, Exhibit, and Sponsor for VETS26 Conference!! 🎉🎉

The VETS26 Conference is the nation's most vibrant experience for everyone who participates in federal contracting and commercial business.

Those who attend the VETS Conference are those who are:

- Small business professionals looking for opportunities to expand and accelerate business growth!
- Large business leaders looking for top shelf teaming partners and suppliers!
- Federal agency representatives sharing their knowledge of acquisition pipelines!
- Trainers with direct hands-on GovCon experience and tips/tricks/techniques that they will actually share!

Register today and plan to join us on **June 1-4, 2026** at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans in New Orleans, LA at the VETS26 Conference, which is NVSBC's premier annual event focused entirely on **GROWING YOUR BUSINESS!**

Register at the link [here](#) or click on the button below where **VETERANS COMMAND TOMORROW!**



2026 Golf Tournament



One exclusive course. One powerful mission. One tournament that sells out every year.

Mark your calendar for Monday, August 17, 2026, when the NVSBC Educational Foundation Charity Golf Tournament returns to the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. For leaders across government contracting, this isn't just another charity outing—it's a can't-miss event where relationships are built; partnerships begin, and the mission of supporting veteran small businesses moves forward.

For those outside the DC area, this tournament is worth the trip. The Army-Navy Country Club, in Arlington, VA is one of the region's most exclusive courses—typically accessible only to members and their guests. Once a year, NVSBC opens the doors to an exceptional day of golf, networking, and purpose-driven connection in the heart of the federal marketplace.

What sets this event apart isn't just the immaculate fairways, or the 8:45 a.m. shotgun start—it's the caliber of the crowd. Executives, program leaders, small business owners, and industry partners gather for authentic conversations that happen naturally between tee shots and around the greens. It's GovCon at its best: relaxed, relationship-driven, and productive.

And yes—it sells out every year. Sponsorships are the surest way to secure your foursome and maximize your visibility among decision-makers, while directly supporting NVSBC's educational programming for veteran small businesses in the federal marketplace.

If you're going to travel for a tournament this year, make it count. Bring your A-game—and we'll see you on the course.

Learn more at [NVSBC.org/events/nvsbc-ef-charity-golf-tournament/](https://www.nvsbc.org/events/nvsbc-ef-charity-golf-tournament/)

NVSBC Educational Fund Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, August 17, 2026

Army-Navy Country Club | Arlington, VA

8:45 a.m. Shotgun Start

Mark this date:

★ Player registration opens: April 1

Registration includes 18 holes, shared cart, breakfast, on-course refreshments, and networking lunch.