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July 13, 2022

Dear Representative:

On behalf of NFIB, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in strong opposition to the Schakowsky amendment #3 to H.R. 7900, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*.¹ **A recorded vote on this amendment will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 117th Congress.**

The Schakowsky amendment would require the Department of Defense (DOD) to give preference to businesses that have entered into agreements with unions to perform work on a project. This preference would likely result in businesses with a union workforce winning contracts over businesses with a non-union workforce regardless of the qualifications of the two competitors.

This amendment would not only unfairly disadvantage high-performing independent businesses that choose to hire a non-union workforce but would also result in more expensive federal government contracts. The amendment is opposed by NFIB small business owner members. In a recent NFIB member ballot, 92% of NFIB members oppose excluding non-union workers from participating in federally funded projects.²

Small business expectations for future business conditions have reached an all-time low.³ Now is not the time to make it impossible for certain small business contractors to compete for DOD contracts. **NFIB strongly opposes the Schakowsky amendment and will consider the amendment an NFIB Key Vote for the 117th Congress.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Kuhlman".

Kevin Kuhlman
Vice President, Federal Government Relations
NFIB

¹ As submitted to House Committee on Rules as #809 https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/SCHAKO_099_xml220707162112814.pdf.

² NFIB Member Ballot, *Mandate Vol. 578*, March 2021.

³ NFIB Research Center, *Small Business Economic Trends*, July 12, 2022, <https://www.nfib.com/content/press-release/economy/small-business-expectations-for-future-conditions-hit-all-time-low/>.