

5 WAYS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES FIGHT INFLATION



Congress and the White House can act now to ease inflation and cost pressures for small businesses. Inflation remains the top problem for small business owners and has consistently ranked as one of their top two concerns for the past 30 months, since November 2021. NFIB urges Congress and the White House to take five crucial actions now to help Main Street fight inflation.

1 STOP ISSUING COSTLY REGULATIONS

The Biden Administration has imposed almost \$1.5 trillion in new regulatory costs, adding over 275 million new paperwork hours for small business owners. The White House should give small businesses immediate relief and prevent these regulatory compliance costs from being passed on to consumers by pulling back burdensome regulations like the Dept. of Labor's overtime and independent contractor rules, OSHA's walkaround rule, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) tailpipe emissions rules, and the Dept. of Energy's appliance energy efficiency rules.

2 PROVIDE LONG TERM PRICE STABILITY AND STOP A MASSIVE TAX HIKE BY MAKING THE SMALL BUSINESS DEDUCTION PERMANENT

Over 30 million small businesses will experience a massive tax increase at the end of 2025. The resulting tax increase will force small businesses to absorb those higher costs by passing them on to their customers in the form of higher prices. Congress should make the small business deduction permanent and stop this massive tax hike by passing the *Main Street Tax Certainty Act* (H.R.4721, S.1706).

3 INJECT COMPETITION INTO THE ANTI-COMPETITIVE SWIPE FEE MARKETPLACE

Anti-competitive practices within the credit card network ecosystem have allowed swipe fees to grow at an unsustainable rate that's strangling small businesses. These fees, as high as 3-4%, are a significant cost requiring small businesses to absorb those costs by passing them on to their customers in the form of higher prices. Injecting competition into this marketplace will allow market forces to lower swipe fees. Congress should pass the *Credit Card Competition Act* immediately (H.R.3821, S.1838).

4 REDUCE THE COST OF ENERGY

Federal policies restrict the production of domestic energy and limit access to it. These policies increase energy costs for small businesses, forcing small businesses to absorb those costs by passing them on to their customers in the form of higher prices. Congress should enact the *Lower Energy Costs Act* to increase U.S. energy production and reduce permitting burdens that slow or prevent infrastructure projects. Congress should also pass S.4072 to prevent the EPA from limiting consumers' vehicle choices and increasing costs for small businesses.

5 CURB HEALTH CARE COST INCREASES

High health care costs disproportionately impact small businesses by increasing their operational expenses. Eliminating reporting requirements and regulatory burdens, empowering individuals with tax-free Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), and promoting transparency in pricing are crucial steps Congress should take now to give small businesses relief from these rising costs. Enacting the *CHOICE Arrangement Act* (H.R.3799), the *Lower Costs More Transparency Act* (H.R.5378), and the *Employer Reporting Improvement Act* (H.R.3801, S.3204) would lower health care costs for small business and help them avoid passing on higher costs to their customers.