

Congressman Mike Doyle
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Message to Small Business

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I owned and ran a small business in Swissvale for many years. Consequently, I understand the challenges small business owners face, and I have worked in Congress to promote government policies that help them.

After the subprime mortgage crisis and the financial industry meltdown produced the “Great Recession,” I believed that Congress had to take meaningful action to get the economy back on track as quickly as possible and avoid another Great Depression. Consequently, I have been working in recent years to enact legislation to help turn the economy around, including legislation to ensure that small businesses have the resources they need to survive and prosper.

For example, I voted for the Recovery Act last February. The Recovery Act invested hundreds of millions of dollars in Allegheny County’s infrastructure – the region’s locks and dams, bridges, tunnels, highways, and airports. Another \$100 million in Recovery Act funding went to research grants and contracts with local universities, which have spun off many successful start-up companies in our region. All of these projects create good-paying jobs and contracts today and promote economic growth in the future.

The Recovery Act also contained tax provisions to help small businesses directly. It allowed small businesses to extend the carryback period for net operating losses from 2008 for up to five years, and it allowed them to expense up to \$250,000 for capital expenditures in 2009. The Recovery Act extended the first-time homebuyer tax credit, which helped stabilize the residential housing market. Finally, the stimulus bill included provisions to make credit more affordable to small businesses.

Last fall, I supported legislation which allowed small businesses to use the extended carryback period for a net operating loss incurred in 2008 or 2009.

This spring, I supported legislation exempting businesses from paying the employer share of Social Security taxes for 2010 wages paid to any new, previously unemployed employee. It also provided employers with a \$1,000 tax credit for every new employee they employ for a year. Finally, the bill extended the Recovery Act provision allowing small businesses to write off capital expenditures up to \$250,000 through 2010.

Over the last two years, I have consistently supported this – and other – legislation to make needed investments in infrastructure and research, create or save jobs, help families that have lost jobs through no fault of their own, and promote private sector growth with, among other things, tax breaks and increased credit for small businesses.

For example, rising health care costs have been a large and growing concern for most American businesses. That’s one reason I supported the health care reform bill enacted earlier this year. As the law takes effect in the coming years, it will shift the balance of power in the health insurance market from insurance companies to consumers – including small businesses.

The law requires employers to either provide coverage for employees or contribute money towards their coverage, but businesses with fewer than 50 full-time employees are exempt from this requirement. Nevertheless, the law offers tax credits to small businesses to make employee coverage more affordable. In addition, the law will create “exchanges” in 2014 where small businesses, the self-employed, and individuals will be able to buy better health insurance at lower prices.

No bill is perfect, however, and I recently voted to repeal the 1099 reporting requirement included in the health care reform law, which I believe would place too great a burden on small businesses.

Finally, once the economy has recovered, I will work with my colleagues in Congress to restore fiscal discipline and rebalance the federal budget, as we did in the late 1990s.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve the people of Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District in Congress. I promise you that I will always keep the needs and concerns of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s small businesses in mind as Congress considers legislation affecting them.