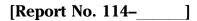
Calendar No.

114TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION





Expressing the sense of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate relating to easing the burden of Federal tax compliance on small businesses.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, reported the following original resolution; which was placed on the calendar

RESOLUTION

- Expressing the sense of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate relating to easing the burden of Federal tax compliance on small businesses.
- Whereas American small businesses face major obstacles complying with their Federal tax obligations;
- Whereas the complexity of the Federal tax code unfairly penalizes small businesses;
- Whereas such complexity requires small business owners to spend significant amounts of time, money, and resources

complying with their tax obligations and less time operating their business;

- Whereas Congress has exacerbated these challenges for America's small businesses by failing to update the tax code in a manner that properly reflects current circumstances;
- Whereas tax policy should also promote increased savings by American citizens to be able to afford the costs of living deeper into old age;
- Whereas employee stock ownership plans help small businesses offer economic incentives to employees and help employees save more for their retirements via investments in their employing companies;
- Whereas tax policy should support small businesses in providing benefit packages to their employees to be competitive with larger employers for the best talent;
- Whereas the successful research and development tax credit has been used to incentivize private firms to invest in research and development, and private investment leads to spillover effects that can have a broad public good through the creation of new products, the development of new processes, and the launching of new industries;
- Whereas while the research and development tax credit is essential for our innovators, it is not accessible to many small businesses and startups—per the Government Accountability Office, over half of the credit goes to firms with \$1,000,000,000 or more in receipts;
- Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, numerous commercially successful innovations originated in small, fledgling firms that could not access the research and development credit;

Whereas, if Congress made the research and development tax credit more available to small businesses and startups, thousands of innovative small firms could claim the credit, boosting their capacity to invest in innovation and job creation; and

Whereas prudent changes to the structure of the Federal tax code would ease the burden of tax compliance, allowing small businesses to put more money back into their business, community, and the economy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Committee on
 Small Business and Entrepreneurship that the Senate
 should enact the following:

4 TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS TAX 5 REFORM

6 SEC. 101. EXPANSION OF CASH ACCOUNTING THRESHOLD.

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section
9 448(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
10 amended by striking "\$5,000,000" in the text and
11 in the heading and inserting "\$25,000,000".

12 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
13 448(c) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking "\$5,000,000" each place it
appears in the text and in the heading of paragraph (1) and inserting "\$25,000,000", and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following new18 paragraph:

	1
1	"(4) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of
2	any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after
3	2015, the dollar amount contained in subsection
4	(b)(3) and paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be
5	increased by an amount equal to—
6	"(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by
7	"(B) the cost-of-living adjustment deter-
8	mined under section $1(f)(3)$ for the calendar
9	year in which the taxable year begins, by sub-
10	stituting 'calendar year 2014' for 'calendar year
11	1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.
12	If any amount as adjusted under this subparagraph
13	is not a multiple of \$100,000, such amount shall be
14	rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100,000.".
15	(b) Exemption From Inventory Requirement.—
16	Section 471 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
17	amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d)
18	and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new
19	subsection:
20	"(c) Section Not to Apply to Certain Cash
21	Method Taxpayers.—If a taxpayer—
22	"(1) would otherwise be required to use inven-
23	tories under this section for any taxable year, but
24	((2) the taxpayer meets the gross receipts test
25	of section 448(b) for the taxable year and is eligible

24	Treasury Regulations section 1.263(a)–1(f) by—
23	days after the date of enactment of this Act, modify
22	Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate shall, within 180
21	(a) Requirement to Modify Safe Harbor.—The
20	OF TANGIBLE PROPERTY.
19	ING OF ACQUISITION OR PRODUCTION COSTS
18	SEC. 102. MODIFICATION OF SAFE HARBOR FOR EXPENS-
17	ury.
16	with the consent of the Secretary of the Treas-
15	(B) such change shall be treated as made
14	ated by the taxpayer; and
13	(A) such change shall be treated as initi-
12	amendments made by this section—
11	method of accounting for any taxable year under the
10	the case of any taxpayer changing the taxpayer's
9	(2) Change in method of accounting.—In
8	after December 31, 2014.
7	this section shall apply to taxable years beginning
6	(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
5	(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND SPECIAL RULE.—
4	to the taxpayer for the taxable year.".
3	then the requirement to use inventories shall not apply
2	ments method of accounting for the taxable year,
1	and elects to use the cash receipts and disburse-

1	(1) increasing the amount of the de minimis
2	safe harbor for taxpayers without applicable finan-
3	cial statements from \$500 to \$2,500,
4	(2) requiring adequate records showing the dol-
5	lar amount being expensed in lieu of accounting pro-
6	cedures in place at the beginning of the taxable year,
7	and
8	(3) modifying the definition of applicable finan-
9	cial statement to include reviewed financial state-
10	ments.
11	(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The modifications required
12	by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning
	after December 21, 2014
13	after December 31, 2014.
13 14	SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM
	,
14	SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM
14 15 16	SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY.
14 15 16 17	 SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280F(d)(4)(A) of the In-
14 15 16 17 18	 SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280F(d)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting
14 15 16 17	 SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280F(d)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "and" at the end of clause (iii) and by striking clause (iv).
14 15 16 17 18 19	 SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280F(d)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "and" at the end of clause (iii) and by striking clause (iv). (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 280F(d)(4)
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 	 SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280F(d)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "and" at the end of clause (iii) and by striking clause (iv). (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 280F(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik-
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 	 SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280F(d)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "and" at the end of clause (iii) and by striking clause (iv). (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 280F(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by redesignating subparagraph
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 	 SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM LISTED PROPERTY. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280F(d)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "and" at the end of clause (iii) and by striking clause (iv). (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 280F(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

1	7 SEC. 104. DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS IN
2	COMPUTING SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAXES.
3	(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 162(l)
4	of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik-
5	ing "for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2010,
6	or after December 31, 2010" and inserting "for taxable
7	years beginning before January 1, 2015.".
8	(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9	this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
10	December 31, 2014.
11	SEC. 105. MODIFICATION OF RULES RELATING TO THE TER-
12	MINATION OF PARTNERSHIPS AND S COR-
10	
13	PORATIONS.
13 14	a) No Termination of Partnership on Sale or
14	(a) No Termination of Partnership on Sale or
14 15	(a) No Termination of Partnership on Sale or Exchange of Assets.—
14 15 16	 (a) NO TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ON SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ASSETS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b)(1) of the In-
14 15 16 17	 (a) NO TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ON SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ASSETS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking
14 15 16 17 18	 (a) NO TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ON SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ASSETS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "only if" and all that follows and inserting "only if
14 15 16 17 18 19	 (a) NO TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ON SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ASSETS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "only if" and all that follows and inserting "only if no part of any business, financial operation, or ven-
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 (a) NO TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ON SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ASSETS.— IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "only if" and all that follows and inserting "only if no part of any business, financial operation, or venture of the partnership continues to be carried on by
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 (a) No TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ON SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ASSETS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "only if" and all that follows and inserting "only if no part of any business, financial operation, or venture of the partnership continues to be carried on by any of its partners in a partnership.".
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 	 (a) No TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP ON SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ASSETS.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "only if" and all that follows and inserting "only if no part of any business, financial operation, or venture of the partnership continues to be carried on by any of its partners in a partnership.". (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

26 ed by striking paragraph (4).

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8

(C) Section 774 of such Code is amended 1 2 by striking subsection (c). 3 (b) NO TERMINATION OF S CORPORATION STATUS 4 DUE TO EXCESSIVE PASSIVE INVESTMENT INCOME. Paragraph (3) of section 1362(d) of the Internal Revenue 5 Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the fol-6 7 lowing new subparagraph: 8 (D)**TERMINATION.**—This paragraph 9 shall not apply to taxable years ending after the 10 date of the enactment of this subparagraph.". TITLE II—PROVISIONS RELATED 11 TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE 12 SERVICE 13 14 SEC. 201. INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS FOR CERTAIN PROVI-15 SIONS. 16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 of the Internal Rev-17 enue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the 18 following new section: 19 "SEC. 7529. INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS. 20 "(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year 21 beginning in a calendar year after 2015, each of the speci-22 fied dollar amounts shall be increased by an amount equal 23 to---

24 "(1) such dollar amount, multiplied by

0
"(2) the cost-of-living adjustment determined
under section $1(f)(3)$ for the calendar year in which
the taxable year begins, determined by substituting
'calendar year 2014' for 'calendar year 1992' in sub-
paragraph (B) thereof.
"(b) Specified Dollar Amounts.—For purposes
of subsection (a), the specified dollar amounts are—
"(1) the \$50,000 amount in section 79(a)(1),
"(2) each of the $$5,250$ amounts in section
127(a)(2),
"(3) each of the \$500 amounts in paragraphs
(11)(A), (11)(B), and (12) of section 170(f),
"(4) the \$5,000 amount in section
170(f)(11)(C),
((5) the $$10,000,000$ amount in section
263A(b)(2),
"(6) each of the dollar amounts in section
274(b)(1),
((7) each of the \$400 amounts in section
274(j),
"(8) the \$1,600 amount in section
274(j)(2)(B),
((9) the $$10,000,000$ amount in section
1202(b)(1),

1	"(10) each of the \$50,000,000 amounts in sec-
2	tion 1202(d)(1),
3	"(11) the \$50,000 amount in section
4	1244(b)(1), and
5	"(12) the $1,000,000$ in section $1244(c)(3)(A)$.
6	"(c) ROUNDING.—
7	"(1) Any increase determined under paragraph
8	(5), (9) , or (10) of subsection (b) shall be rounded
9	to the nearest multiple of \$100,000.
10	"(2) Any increase determined under paragraph
11	(1), (4), (11), or (12) of subsection (b) shall be
12	rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1,000.
13	"(3) Any increase determined under paragraph
14	(2) of subsection (b) shall be rounded to the nearest
15	multiple of \$500.
16	"(4) Any increase determined under paragraph
17	(3), (7), or (8) of subsection (b) shall be rounded to
18	the nearest multiple of \$100.
19	"(5) Any increase determined under paragraph
20	(6) of subsection (b) shall be rounded to the nearest
21	multiple of \$5.".
22	(b) Conforming Amendments.—
23	(1) Section $1202(b)(3)$ of such Code is amend-
24	ed by striking "paragraph (1)(A) shall be applied by
25	substituting ' $$5,000,000$ ' for ' $$10,000,000$ '" and in-

1 serting "the amount under paragraph (1)(A) shall 2 be 50 percent of such dollar amount (determined 3 without regard to this paragraph)". 4 (2) Section 1244(b)(2) of such Code is amend-5 ed by striking "\$100,000" and inserting "200 per-6 cent of the amount under paragraph (1)". 7 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections 8 for chapter 77 of such Code is amended by adding at the 9 end the following new item: "Sec. 7529. Inflation adjustments.". 10 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by 11 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after 12 the date of the enactment of this Act. 13 SEC. 202. REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS TO CUSTOMER 14 SERVICE. 15 Not later than June 30, 2016, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall submit to the Committee on Small 16 17 Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Committee on 18 19 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report 20 detailing specific ways to improve customer service to 21 small businesses, including objectively measurable goals 22 for how to reduce response times.

1 SEC. 203. RETURN DUE DATE MODIFICATIONS.

2 (a) New Due Date for Partnership Form 1065,
3 S Corporation Form 1120S, and C Corporation
4 Form 1120.—

5 (1) PARTNERSHIPS.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 6072 of the In-7 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by 8 adding at the end the following new subsection: 9 "(f) RETURNS OF PARTNERSHIPS.—Returns of part-10 nerships under section 6031 made on the basis of the cal-11 endar year shall be filed on or before the 15th day of 12 March following the close of the calendar year, and such 13 returns made on the basis of a fiscal year shall be filed on or before the 15th day of the third month following 14 15 the close of the fiscal year.".

16 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
17 6072(a) of such Code is amended by striking
18 "6017, or 6031" and inserting "or 6017".

19 (2) S CORPORATIONS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—So much of subsection
21 (b) of 6072 of such Code as precedes the sec22 ond sentence thereof is amended to read as fol23 lows:

24 "(b) RETURNS OF CERTAIN CORPORATIONS.—Re25 turns of S corporations under sections 6012 and 6037
26 made on the basis of the calendar year shall be filed on

or before the 31st day of March following the close of the
 calendar year, and such returns made on the basis of a
 fiscal year shall be filed on or before the last day of the
 third month following the close of the fiscal year.".

5	(B) Conforming Amendments.—
6	(i) Section 1362(b) of such Code is
7	amended—
8	(I) by striking "15th" each place
9	it appears and inserting "last",
10	(II) by striking " $2^{1/2}$ " each place
11	it appears and inserting "3", and
12	(III) by striking "2 months and
13	15 days" in paragraph (4) and insert-
14	ing "3 months".
15	(ii) Section $1362(d)(1)(C)(i)$ of such
16	Code is amended by striking "15th" and
17	inserting "last".
18	(iii) Section $1362(d)(1)(C)(ii)$ of such
19	Code is amended by striking "such 15th
20	day" and inserting "the last day of the 3d
21	month thereof".
22	(3) Conforming amendments relating to c
23	CORPORATIONS.—

1	(A) Section 170(a)(2)(B) of such Code is
2	amended by striking "third month" and insert-
3	ing "4th month".
4	(B) Section 563 of such Code is amended
5	by striking "third month" each place it appears
6	and inserting "4th month".
7	(C) Section $1354(d)(1)(B)(i)$ of such Code
8	is amended by striking "3d month" and insert-
9	ing "4th month".
10	(D) Subsection (a) and (c) of section 6167
11	of such Code are each amended by striking
12	"third month" and inserting "4th month".
13	(E) Section $6425(a)(1)$ of such Code is
14	amended by striking "third month" and insert-
15	ing "4th month".
16	(F) Subsections $(b)(2)(A)$, $(g)(3)$, and
17	(h)(1) of section 6655 of such Code are each
18	amended by striking "3rd month" and inserting
19	"4th month".
20	(4) Effective date.—The amendments made
21	by this subsection shall apply to returns for taxable
22	years beginning after December 31, 2015.
23	(b) Modification of Due Dates by Regula-
24	TION.—In the case of returns for taxable years beginning
25	after December 31, 2013, the Secretary of the Treasury

or the Secretary's delegate shall modify appropriate regu lations to provide as follows:

3 (1) The maximum extension for the returns of
4 partnerships filing Form 1065 shall be a 6-month
5 period beginning on the due date for filing the re6 turn (without regard to any extensions).

7 (2) The maximum extension for the returns of
8 trusts and estates filing Form 1041 shall be a 5¹/₂9 month period beginning on the due date for filing
10 the return (without regard to any extensions).

(3) The maximum extension for the returns of
employee benefit plans filing Form 5500 shall be an
automatic 3¹/₂-month period beginning on the due
date for filing the return (without regard to any extensions).

16 (4) The maximum extension for the Forms 990
17 (series) returns of organizations exempt from income
18 tax shall be an automatic 6-month period beginning
19 on the due date for filing the return (without regard
20 to any extensions).

(5) The maximum extension for the returns of
organizations exempt from income tax that are required to file Form 4720 returns of excise taxes
shall be an automatic 6-month period beginning on

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16 1 the due date for filing the return (without regard to 2 any extensions). 3 (6) The maximum extension for the returns of 4 trusts required to file Form 5227 shall be an auto-5 matic 6-month period beginning on the due date for 6 filing the return (without regard to any extensions). 7 (7) The maximum extension for the returns of 8 Black Lung Benefit Trusts required to file Form 9 6069 returns of excise taxes shall be an automatic 10 6-month period beginning on the due date for filing 11 the return (without regard to any extensions). 12 (8) The maximum extension for a taxpayer re-13 quired to file Form 8870 shall be an automatic 6-14 month period beginning on the due date for filing 15 the return (without regard to any extensions).

(9) The due date of Form 3520–A, Annual Information Return of a Foreign Trust with a United
States Owner, shall be the 15th day of the 4th
month after the close of the trust's taxable year, and
the maximum extension shall be a 6-month period
beginning on such day.

(10) The due date of FinCEN Form 114 (relating to Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts) shall be April 15 with a maximum extension
for a 6-month period ending on October 15, and

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with provision for an extension under rules similar
to the rules of 26 C.F.R. 1.6081–5. For any taxpayer required to file such form for the first time,
the Secretary of the Treasury may waive any penalty
for failure to timely request or file an extension.

6 (11) Taxpayers filing Form 3520, Annual Re-7 turn to Report Transactions with Foreign Trusts 8 and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts, shall be al-9 lowed to extend the time for filing such form sepa-10 rately from the income tax return of the taxpayer, 11 for an automatic 6-month period beginning on the 12 due date for filing the return (without regard to any 13 extensions).

14 (c) CORPORATIONS PERMITTED STATUTORY AUTO15 MATIC 6-MONTH EXTENSION OF INCOME TAX RE16 TURNS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6081(b) of the In18 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking
19 "3 months" and inserting "6 months".

20 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
21 by this section shall apply to returns for taxable
22 years beginning after December 31, 2015.

4 SEC. 301. REDUCTION IN HOLDING PERIOD FOR QUALIFIED

5 SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 1202(a)
7 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik8 ing "5 years" and inserting "3 years".

9 (b) Conforming Amendments.—

10 (1) Paragraph (2) of section 1202(b) of such
11 Code is amended by striking "5 years" and inserting
12 "3 years"

13 (2) Subparagraph (A) of section 1202(g)(2) of
14 such Code is amended by striking "5 years" and in15 serting "3 years",

16 (3) Subparagraph (C) of section 1202(h)(2) of
17 such Code is amended by striking "5-year" and in18 serting "3-year", and

(4) Subparagraph (A) of section 1202(j)(1) of
such Code is amended by striking "5 years" and inserting "3 years".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made bythis section shall apply to stock issued after the date ofthe enactment of this Act.

1 SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF ROLLOVER PERIOD FOR QUALI-2 FIED SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 1045(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik-4 5 ing "60-day period" and inserting "1-year period".

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of 7 section 1045(b) of such Code is amended by striking "60day period" and inserting "1-year period". 8

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enact-10 ment of this Act. 11

TITLE IV—PROMOTION AND EX-12 PANSION OF PRIVATE EM-13 PLOYEE OWNERSHIP

15 SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

14

16 This title may be cited as the "Promotion and Expan-17 sion of Private Employee Ownership Act of 2015".

18 SEC. 402. FINDINGS.

19 Congress finds that—

20 (1) on January 1, 1998—nearly 25 years after 21 the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 22 1974 was enacted and the employee stock ownership 23 plan (hereafter in this section referred to as an 24 "ESOP") was created—employees were first per-25 mitted to be owners of subchapter S corporations

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1	pursuant to the Small Business Job Protection Act
2	of 1996 (Public Law 104–188);
3	(2) with the passage of the Taxpayer Relief Act
4	of 1997 (Public Law 105–34), Congress designed in-
5	centives to encourage businesses to become ESOP-
6	owned S corporations;
7	(3) since that time, several thousand companies
8	have become ESOP-owned S corporations, creating
9	an ownership interest for several million Americans
10	in companies in every State in the country, in indus-
11	tries ranging from heavy manufacturing to tech-
12	nology development to services;
13	(4) while estimates show that 40 percent of
14	working Americans have no formal retirement ac-
15	count at all, every United States worker who is an
16	employee-owner of an S corporation company
17	through an ESOP has a valuable qualified retire-
18	ment savings account;
19	(5) recent studies have shown that employees of
20	ESOP-owned S corporations enjoy greater job sta-
21	bility than employees of comparable companies;
22	(6) studies also show that employee-owners of S
23	corporation ESOP companies have amassed mean-
24	ingful retirement savings through their S ESOP ac-

21

counts that will give them the means to retire with
 dignity;

3 (7) under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 4 631 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated by the 5 Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 6 a small business concern that was eligible under the 7 Small Business Act for the numerous preferences of 8 the Act is denied treatment as a small business con-9 cern after an ESOP acquires more than 49 percent 10 of the business, even if the number of employees, the 11 revenue of the small business concern, and the ra-12 cial, gender, or other criteria used under the Act to 13 determine whether the small business concern is eli-14 gible for benefits under the Act remain the same, 15 solely because of the acquisition by the ESOP; and 16 (8) it is the goal of Congress to both preserve 17 and foster employee ownership of S corporations 18 through ESOPs.

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 SEC. 403. DEFERRAL OF TAX FOR CERTAIN SALES OF EM

 20
 PLOYER STOCK TO EMPLOYEE STOCK OWN

 21
 ERSHIP PLAN SPONSORED BY S CORPORA

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 TION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section
24 1042(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is

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amended by striking "domestic C corporation" and insert ing "domestic corporation".

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall apply to sales after the date of the
5 enactment of this Act.

6 SEC. 404. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY TECHNICAL ASSIST7 ANCE OFFICE.

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRED.—Before the end of 9 the 90-day period beginning on the date of enactment of 10 this Act, the Secretary of Treasury shall establish the S 11 Corporation Employee Ownership Assistance Office to fos-12 ter increased employee ownership of S corporations.

13 (b) DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.—The S Corporation14 Employee Ownership Assistance Office shall provide—

(1) education and outreach to inform companies
and individuals about the possibilities and benefits of
employee ownership of S corporations; and

18 (2) technical assistance to assist S corporations19 in sponsoring employee stock ownership plans.

20 SEC. 405. SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNER21 SHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Small Business Act (15
U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

24 (1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48;25 and

	20
1	(2) by inserting after section 46 the following:
2	"SEC. 47. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLANS.
3	"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
4	"(1) the term 'ESOP' means an employee stock
5	ownership plan, as defined in section $4975(e)(7)$ of
6	the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
7	and
8	"(2) the term 'ESOP business concern' means
9	a business concern that was a small business con-
10	cern eligible for a loan, preference, or other program
11	under this Act before the date on which more than
12	49 percent of the business concern was acquired by
13	an ESOP.
14	"(b) CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY.—In determining
15	whether an ESOP business concern qualifies as a small
16	business concern for purposes of a loan, preference, or
17	other program under this Act, each ESOP participant
18	shall be treated as directly owning his or her proportionate
19	share of the stock in the ESOP business concern owned
20	by the ESOP.".
21	(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22	this section shall take effect on January 1 of the first cal-
23	endar year beginning after the date of the enactment of

 $24 \quad {\rm this} \; {\rm Act.}$