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Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | April 28, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller, Heitkamp, Peters Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Make Sure Small Businesses & Startups have Seat at the Table**  *Senators’ Bill Would Make Sure Small Businesses have a Voice as the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Creates Rules that Impact Businesses of all Sizes*  **(Washington DC)** **–** Today, U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and Gary Peters (D-MI) introduced bipartisan legislation to make sure small businesses, which make up [almost half](https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/FAQ_Sept_2012.pdf) of the country’s private-sector workforce and created about [two-thirds](https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/FAQ_Sept_2012.pdf) of the nation’s net new jobs, have a seat at the table as new federal rules are made on how they can raise funding and access the resources they need to succeed.    Long-time advocates for encouraging innovation and entrepreneurial growth across the country, Heller, Heitkamp, and Peters are working to make sure small businesses have a clear voice when it comes to rulemaking that applies to private enterprises nationwide. Too often small businesses and startups face challenges because federal rules don’t distinguish between large and small businesses, putting small businesses at a disadvantage. By creating an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation within the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) – the nation’s regulatory authority on protecting investors, maintaining orderly markets, and enabling companies to raise the funding they need to start and grow– Heller, Heitkamp, and Peters’ *SEC Small Business Advocate Act* would establish clear lines of communication between small businesses and the federal rule makers to make sure small businesses can advocate for policies that help them build investments in their companies as well as jobs across the country.  “In Nevada there are over 230,000 small businesses which employ more than 428,000 workers,” **said Senator Heller.** “Unfortunately, small businesses are often underrepresented in the regulatory process in Washington. I’m proud to work with Senator Heitkamp and Senator Peters on this bipartisan legislation which would finally give job-creating small businesses a bigger voice at the Securities and Exchange Commission to ensure that their views are heard on important issues such as capital formation.  Promoting access to working capital for small businesses is vital to hire new employees, grow business ventures, and encourage a stronger economic recovery.”  “North Dakota small businesses are creating jobs and economic opportunities throughout our communities – and when they make up 96 percent of our state’s employers, they deserve a seat at the table,” **said Senator Heitkamp.** “Federal rule makers should work with North Dakota small businesses and startups to better understand the challenges they face – whether it’s growing investors to get off the ground, or complying with policies so they can continue to expand and hire more workers. Our commonsense, bipartisan bill would give small businesses – which created about two-thirds of the nation’s new jobs – a voice with the federal agency making many of these decisions so federal rules aren’t just written just for big business, but instead encourage new entrepreneurs to innovate and thrive.”    “As the engines of economic growth in Michigan and across the country, it is vital that small businesses have their voices heard in the federal rulemaking decisions that impact them,” **said Senator Peters, a member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.** “I’m pleased to join my colleagues to introduce this bipartisan legislation, which will improve communication between small businesses and federal regulators and strengthen the ability of small businesses to compete and succeed.”  “Raising the funds to start a small business in a rural area can be a tall order – but like any good Midwesterners, at c2renew, we know how to make a few resources go a long way,” **said Corey Kratcha, CEO of c2renew.** “When we launched three years ago, we knew we could help businesses do the same to grow their products – and we’ve already had success, providing material from flax and corn for bio-based toothbrushes that allowed a Jamestown company to keep manufacturing in the Midwest instead of overseas. And with Senators Heitkamp, Heller and Peters’ commonsense bill, we could be able to build investments in our products so we can make a bigger difference faster. That’s why as a rural, hometown company we’re proud to support this legislation giving small businesses like ours a seat at the table.”  ###    [cid:image005.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177)[cid:image006.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller)[cid:image007.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |