

I voted Yes on H.R. 527, the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2011.

H.R. 527 would give the Small Business Administration (SBA) new authority to ensure that federal agencies comply with regulatory review requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. It expands the review that agencies must conduct before issuing new regulations and the review they conduct of existing rules to include an evaluation of indirect costs. The measure also expands the ability of small businesses impacted by an agency's regulations to challenges to those rules in court.

Under current law, if a rule will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses, then the agency must look at alternatives and weigh costs and benefits. But agencies are not complying fully with the current law. H.R. 527 would close loopholes and address weaknesses in the current law, to require agencies to conduct the kind of analysis they should already be doing.

The small business owners I meet Upstate say complying with regulations has become an overwhelming problem. This country can't do well unless small businesses do well. Federal agencies should properly and periodically review their rules to ensure regulations aren't unduly burdensome.

We all agree that some regulations are absolutely necessary to protect the public good. However, we need to ensure that regulations reflect a proper balance that does not unreasonably hinder entrepreneurship, job creation and innovation. This legislation helps accomplish that goal.

The bill was approved by a vote of 263 – 159.