

I voted Yes on H.R. 3606, the JOBS (Jumpstart Our Business Startups) Act.

The JOBS Act combines several bipartisan proposals to help new businesses and startups enter the marketplace and create jobs. It accomplishes this goal by creating a new class of issuers, increasing access to capital and easing regulatory burdens on small companies going public. These measures will spur economic activity and encourage small businesses to expand while maintaining strong investor and consumer protections.

The number of American IPOs – or initial public offerings - has fallen in recent years and fewer smaller companies are going public. This disturbing trend inhibits our economic recovery. H.R. 3606 will go a long way towards reversing this trend by providing small businesses and startups with the tools to expand, make capital investments, and grow their workforce.

Specifically, the JOBS Act would:

- Create a new category of issuers known as "emerging growth companies" and temporarily exempt them from certain regulations during their initial growth period while maintaining strong protections against potential conflicts of interests.
- Expand equity financing and improve access to capital for small, privately held companies by allowing them to advertise to solicit accredited investors. A regulation currently prohibits this activity and limits the pool of investors to those who have an existing relationship with the company in question.
- Allow "crowdfunding" for small businesses to raise capital. This innovative technique allows companies to raise up to \$1 million, or as high as \$2 million if the company provides audited statements, without registering with the SEC. Importantly, individual investors would not be able to contribute more than \$10,000 or 10 percent of the investor's annual income each year.
- Make it easier for small businesses to be traded on public exchanges by modernizing several

outdated registration thresholds that serve as a disincentive to companies going public or attracting more investors.

The White House, and Republicans and Democrats in Congress alike support this bill. President Obama has said, "It is time to cut away the red tape that prevents too many rapidly growing startup companies from raising capital and going public." I couldn't agree more.

I was pleased to vote for the JOBS Act because it allows smaller, innovative companies in Upstate New York that are just getting off the ground to access equity capital where the hurdles, the red tape, the cost burdens, have been too high. This is strong public policy that can really help create jobs by letting American companies do what they do best – compete – without undue and unnecessary hurdles to jump over.

The bill was approved by a vote of 390 – 23.