



Committee: House Small Business Committee

Event: [AI on Main Street: How AI is Shaping the Future of Small Business](#)

Date: July 14, 2026

Executive Summary:

On Tuesday, July 14, 2026, the House Small Business Committee held a hearing to discuss the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) by small businesses and the challenges they face in utilizing these tools. Members highlighted several bipartisan bills aimed at addressing AI literacy and adoption, including the AI for Main Street Act ([H.R.5764](#)) and the Secure Data Act ([H.R.8413](#)). Members and witnesses noted the importance of a national framework for AI and data privacy.

Member Toplines:¹

[Chair Roger Williams \(R-TX-25\)](#): Williams highlighted the growing use of AI by small businesses to improve efficiency and strengthen cybersecurity. He argued that AI is helping small businesses compete with larger firms while supporting, rather than replacing, workers. Williams criticized the former-Biden Administration's AI regulatory approach as burdensome while praising the Trump Administration's policies. He also advocated for bipartisan legislation to expand AI adoption and reduce barriers for small businesses.

[Rep. Gil Cisneros \(D-CA-31\)](#): Cisneros gave an opening statement on behalf of Ranking Member **Nydia Velázquez** (D-NY-07). Cisneros highlighted AI's potential to improve productivity and lower costs for small businesses while emphasizing the risks posed by hallucinations, bias, privacy concerns, and uneven access to AI tools. He underscored the need for Small Business Administration AI literacy resources to help entrepreneurs evaluate and safely adopt AI technologies.

Witness Toplines:

[Jordan Crenshaw, Senior Vice President, Technology Engagement Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#): Crenshaw highlighted the growing adoption of AI by small businesses, emphasizing its role in improving productivity and reducing costs. He argued that AI is creating workforce opportunities rather than replacing workers and voiced support for expanding AI education and adoption. Crenshaw also urged Congress to establish a national framework for AI and data privacy, warning that a patchwork of state regulations creates uncertainty and burdens for small businesses. Crenshaw urged Congress to pass the Secure Data Act ([H.R.8413](#)).

[Anthony Qaiyum, President, Merz Apothecary](#): Qaiyum highlighted how AI has improved efficiency and supported workforce growth at his family-owned business by automating administrative tasks. He emphasized that AI provides small businesses with affordable access to capabilities once limited to large corporations. Qaiyum urged Congress to

¹ Rep. Cisneros' opening remarks were unavailable at the time of this memo's distribution.

establish a clear national AI framework, keep AI tools affordable and accessible, and invest in AI literacy and workforce training for small businesses.

[France Hoang, Founder & CEO, BoodleBox](#): Hoang emphasized that while AI tools are becoming widely accessible, small businesses continue to face barriers related to AI literacy. He argued that AI literacy and hands-on support are critical to helping businesses effectively adopt the technology and avoid falling behind. Hoang urged Congress to invest in AI training through Small Business Development Centers and strengthen data privacy protections so small businesses don't have to worry about sacrificing their work product.

[Chike Aguh, Head of Innovation & Strategy, Kapor Center](#): Aguh highlighted AI's potential to lower barriers for entrepreneurs by improving productivity, while cautioning that challenges related to data privacy, trust, and governance could limit its benefits. He emphasized the need for AI literacy, workforce development, and a national framework for AI governance to support adoption.

Major Takeaways:

Regulatory Frameworks and Data Privacy:

- Crenshaw argued that AI adoption by small businesses is being slowed by regulatory uncertainty and expressed support for Congress establishing a national data privacy framework.
- Rep. Cisneros expressed support for a national AI regulatory framework but criticized the administration's proposal to preempt state AI laws without establishing federal safeguards.
 - Aguh noted that while a single national AI framework is preferred, until one is enacted, state AI regulations are preferable to no regulation because they provide businesses with clearer rules and greater confidence to adopt AI.
- Rep. **Beth Van Duyne** (R-TX-24) asked how Congress can address data privacy risks without creating compliance burdens that price small businesses out of AI.
 - Crenshaw argued that Congress should enact national data privacy legislation, referencing the Secure Data Act as an example, and establish a national AI framework.
- Rep. **Mark Alford** (R-MO-04) highlighted the AI for Main Street Act, which would use the Small Business Development Center network to provide small businesses with AI training, cybersecurity best practices, data protection guidance, and technical assistance.
 - Crenshaw expressed support for the AI for Main Street Act, calling it a critical tool to help small businesses understand and responsibly adopt AI, and urged the Senate to pass the bill.
- Qaiyum noted that data privacy laws are his company's greatest barrier to AI adoption.
- Rep. **Kelly Morrison** (D-MN-03) asked what a federal AI regulatory framework should include.
 - Aguh said a federal framework should also address intellectual property protections for AI-generated content.