



# *News Release*

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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### ***President Bush Proclaims National Small Business Week, Praises Small Business Owners' Willingness to Take Risks for a Better Life***

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush applauded America's small business owners and employees, proclaiming the week of April 9-15 as a time to “applaud the men and women who own and operate small businesses and spur economic growth. Through their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence, they help ensure that America remains a place where dreams are realized.”

The President's proclamation called on the American people “to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and their employees and encourage the development of new small businesses.”

“The entrepreneurial spirit of America is robust and strong, and small businesses are thriving throughout our great nation,” the President said in his proclamation. “The opportunity to own a business is an important part of the American dream. During Small Business Week, we celebrate small business owners and employees who are willing to take risks and work hard in pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families.

“Our economy has created almost 5 million jobs since August 2003. Small businesses create most new jobs in our country, and small businesses have been a driving force behind America's tremendous economic growth and job creation. By adopting sound economic policies that help small businesses continue to grow and expand, we will keep our economy moving forward and create more jobs for American workers,” the President said.

“My Administration remains committed to fostering an environment where innovation succeeds and small businesses can flourish. We are working with the Congress to make the tax relief permanent and to pass Association Health Plans to allow small businesses to join together and buy insurance at the same discounts big businesses receive. We are encouraging small business owners and employees to consider health savings accounts, which help small businesses provide health insurance for their workers and give consumers greater flexibility in how they spend their dollars. We also are continuing to work to open new markets for American products and services abroad. Putting a stop to the frivolous lawsuits that drive up the cost of doing business will further help small businesses enhance the quality of life for their employees and their communities.”

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The U.S. Small Business Administration is a proud partner in this nation's ongoing mission to create an environment in which small businesses can grow and thrive. Small business owners from across the country will be in Washington, D.C., April 12-13. For more information about the events, visit <http://www.sba.gov/sbw/>.

The full text of the President's National Small Business Week proclamation can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/03/20060323-9.html>.

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