



For Immediate Release

**Angel Capital Association & Leading Entrepreneurship Advocates Call on Policymakers to Address 20+ Years of Stagnant Startup Rates**

*Bipartisan Policy Agenda for Local, State, and Federal Policymakers Will Reduce Barriers to Entrepreneurship for Women, People of Color, and Rural Residents*

**Kansas City, MO, October 21, 2019** – American entrepreneurship and the rate of new businesses have remained essentially flat for nearly 20 years — a troubling trend due in part to women, people of color, and rural residents facing barriers when it comes to starting a new business.

The Angel Capital Association, in collaboration with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and more than a dozen entrepreneurship advocacy groups, is launching a coalition called [Start Us Up](#) and releasing a policy plan called [America's New Business Plan](#) to provide policymakers at the local, state, and federal level a bipartisan roadmap for reducing barriers to entrepreneurship and spurring more startups across the country to create new jobs as a potential recession looms large.

A misguided focus by many policymakers has prioritized support for entrenched, large businesses over young, scrappy businesses. This despite the fact that entrepreneurs — not big businesses — are responsible for almost all new net job creation.

America's New Business Plan outlines four core categories of support that are needed yet are often denied to — or don't exist for — entrepreneurs, especially women, people of color, and rural residents.

- **Opportunity:** A level playing field and less red tape
- **Funding:** Equal access to the right kind of capital everywhere
- **Knowledge:** The know-how to start a business
- **Support:** The ability for all to take risks

The plan outlines a mix of straightforward steps alongside more ambitious things policymakers can do to strengthen access to entrepreneurship, including:

- Creating a single checklist of everything entrepreneurs need to do from a regulatory perspective to start a new business
- Reforming immigration policy to establish a startup visa that authorizes foreign entrepreneurs to start businesses in the U.S.
- Expanding access to capital
- Providing a stronger safety net that includes things like more affordable health care options and student loan relief

“As policymakers debate taxes and tariffs, entrepreneurship remains America’s true economic engine and an area we can all agree on,” said Wendy Guillies, president and CEO of the Kauffman Foundation. “Policymakers can support entrepreneurs in creating an economy that promotes diversity, competition, and innovation where new ideas can take root.”

### **About the Angel Capital Association (ACA)**

The [Angel Capital Association](http://www.angelcapitalassociation.org) (ACA) is the professional association of angel investors across North America and offers education, best practices, data, public policy advocacy, and significant benefits and resources to its membership of more than 14,000 accredited investors, who invest individually or through its 250+ angel groups, accredited platforms, and family offices.

Visit [www.angelcapitalassociation.org](http://www.angelcapitalassociation.org) or at [@ACAAngelCapital](https://twitter.com/ACAAngelCapital)

Contact:

Emily Angold, Marketing Manager for Angel Capital Association

913-894-4700 x3

[eamgold@angelcapitalassociation.org](mailto:eamgold@angelcapitalassociation.org)

### **About Start Us Up:**

Start Us Up is a diverse group of organizations working together to eliminate barriers to starting new businesses. For more information, visit us at [www.StartUsUpNow.org](http://www.StartUsUpNow.org).