

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
ON BEHALF OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS



Statement for the Record of Stephanie Camarillo
Molly Maid of Boise and the Treasure Valley

**United States Senate
Committees on Finance and Small Business
and Entrepreneurship**

Tackling Tax Complexity: The Small Business Perspective

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National Federation of Independent Business
555 12th Street NW, Suite 1001
Washington, DC

Thank you, Chairmen Wyden and Cardin, Ranking Members Crapo and Young, and members of the committees, for taking time to listen to a small business owner. The Small Business Deduction, also known as Section 199A, has made a difference to our business and I'm here to tell you how.

My name is Stephanie Camarillo and I have owned one of the largest residential cleaning businesses in our region, Molly Maid of Boise and the Treasure Valley, for over 15 years.

Many of our 42 employees are single mothers, some from immigrant families. Most have never attended college or trade school. It's easy to think that working for a cleaning company is a dead-end job. There is a lot of dirty work, but my small business has had a unique opportunity to impact the lives of our workforce and their families in ways that can address underlying issues and create generational change. It's what makes mine and other small businesses like it such a vital part of a thriving community.

We have learned that one of the most powerful ways to grow our company and retain the very best talent is to invest in our people. There are the well-known ways of investing: paying well, providing meaningful benefits, and offering a supportive environment. But there are also other ways to invest that small businesses are uniquely able to understand.

We noticed that our employees were working hard but not getting ahead in their lives. When we got under the surface, we realized that while our employees were smart, they did not know how to manage money. Financial literacy was something we could tackle and teach our employees. We set out to help them understand how to pay off debt, create an emergency fund, improve credit scores, save for college and retirement. It worked! Now, close to half of our workforce own their own homes. These investments have also helped our bottom line and resulted in low turnover and an engaged workforce.

In 2018, the Small Business Deduction (Section 199A) allowed us to make a meaningful investment in an employee named Jasmine.

Jasmine is a single mom who felt trapped and unable to advance in her life. She started working for us as a housecleaner about 6 years ago. She cleaned during the day and at night she worked to finish her GED. Because of the tax savings through the Small Business Deduction (Section 199A), we were able to give Jasmine the raise

and promotion she had earned and now she is on our management team. She has continued to spread her wings and is bound to be promoted again.

Tax relief saves jobs and elevates working families.

I admire bigger businesses and corporations, but small businesses don't have the same access to resources. Our business, like so many others, continues to feel pressures in the economy: inflation, a tight labor force, supply chain constraints.

We were challenged recently in our business when Amazon built a large facility near our office. We lost employees due to Amazon's big signing bonuses and promises of high wages. We really struggled with staffing while Amazon was ramping up.

Wouldn't you know it! Amazon has since scaled back this facility.

My company remains. It's because Congress had the foresight to pass the Small Business Deduction (Section 199A) that helped us to weather this storm.

I am not a tax expert, but I will conclude by saying the Small Business Deduction (Section 199A) has made a difference for our business. Unless Congress acts, millions of small businesses like ours face a substantial tax increase in a few short years, which will be extremely problematic. I urge you to make this deduction permanent.