



This FANmail is brought to you by: Roald and Clarissa Bradstock

*"He's taught me how to build on my strengths and always stay focused – which is a win-win for my company and all of its franchisees."*

-- Clarissa Bradstock, CEO, Any Lab Test Now

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## Joint Employer Update

Yesterday, the GOP leadership released the text of the \$1.3-trillion spending bill to fund the government through the end of fiscal year 2018. Despite an incredible lobbying and advocacy effort by the IFA team, the IFA-led [Coalition to Save Local Businesses](#) and FANs over the past several weeks, unfortunately, language to narrow the legal definition of joint employment was excluded from the final text of the spending bill.

Now, more than ever, we need your help in the coming months to demonstrate a sense of urgency to resolve the ongoing NLRB and FLSA-related joint employer uncertainty facing the franchise business model and the broader business community.

Text **FAN** to **52886** to urge your members of Congress to permanently fix joint employer by passing the Save Local Business Act.

[Tell your members of Congress to solve joint employer by voting in favor of H.R. 3441, the Save Local Business Act!](#)

## Take Action Now

### **FASTSIGNS CEO Discusses Association Health Plans (AHP) in Exclusive Varney & Co. Interview**

Yesterday, IFA Executive Committee Member and FASTSIGNS International CEO, Catherine Monson, CFE, [testified in favor of 'association health plans'](#) before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions (HELP). Monson argued that the proposed plan would let organizations such as the IFA leverage their size and administrative efficiency to offer affordable health coverage to members than they currently get on the individual and small group markets. "This is about providing the most amazing quality health insurance. It's all about having an even playing field and being able to get the best employee candidates," Monson added.

Monson also discussed the advantages of AHPs and the proposed rule for franchise businesses in an [exclusive interview](#) with Fox Business Network's *Varney and Co.*

*Watch the full interview by clicking the image below.*



*IFA Executive Committee Member and FASTSIGNS International CEO Catherine Monson, CFE, discusses affordable healthcare options for small businesses.*

## **IFA Releases Franchised Business Ownership by Minority and Gender Groups at an Event with U.S. Black Chambers & Rainbow PUSH**

Last week, IFA, in association with the U.S. Black Chambers Inc. and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, hosted an event on Capitol Hill for the official release of the [Franchised Business Ownership: by Minority and Gender Groups](#). The event unfolded with remarks from Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), and Gregory Meeks (N.Y.) discussing the power of franchising in the minority community.



On behalf of IFA, Earsa Jackson, Chair of the Diversity Institute, provided a rundown of the minority diversity study. Jackson noted the key findings of the study:

- Nearly one-third (30.8%) of franchises are owned by minorities, compared to 18.8% of non-franchised businesses.

- Minority ownership rate for franchised businesses increased 50% from 2007-2012.
- Female ownership rate for franchised businesses increased 50% from 2007-2012.

IFA President and CEO Robert Cresanti, CFE, commented upon the release of the report, “this report demonstrates how the franchise business model is already working to meet the future challenges of a rapidly growing and diversifying franchise sector with shifting demographics, instituting a business model that achieves a dream for hundreds of thousands of Americans.”



*Left to right: IFA President and CEO Robert Cresanti, CFE, Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), and President and CEO of Black Chambers Inc. Ron Busby.*

The event concluded with two panels with minority franchise experts, for an opportunity for the audience to have an engaging discussion on the upward trend of franchising in the minority community.

Read the full report [here](#).

### **Are You a Franchise Influencer?**

To capture the existing relationships and political capital within the Franchise Action Network, we are excited to deploy the [IFA Political Influencer Index](#). The goal of the index is to understand your network of relationships with elected officials and to help drive our policy priorities in the future. The questions focus on your involvement in the political process and knowledge of critical issues. Your help here will allow IFA to discover key relationships we can help build and your willingness to participate in our critical advocacy efforts moving forward.

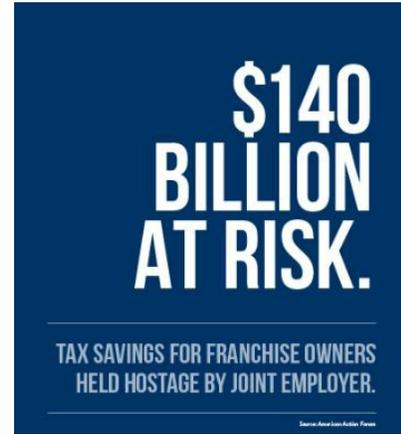
The survey will only take 5-10 minutes and your participation will help FAN's impact and reach on important legislative campaigns.

[Take the Survey!](#)

## American Action Forum Releases Risk to Tax Savings Because of Joint Employer

Last week, the American Action Forum (AAF) published a research study that quantifies the potential risk of the current joint employer standard, in contrast to tax savings under The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). The key findings of the research indicate that some savings from the TCJA to franchises will not be invested due to the risk posed by the burdensome regulatory environment. President of AAF, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, issued [an article](#) citing the key findings of the paper prompting a call for a permanent legislative fix to the issue.

Read the research study [here](#).



## Helping Veterans Start Small Businesses



Representatives Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.) and Julia Brownley (D-Calif.) penned an op-ed in Stars and Stripes making a strong case for their bipartisan bill, H.R. 4473 the Veteran Entrepreneurs Act of 2017. The proposed legislation would give a tax credit to qualifying veterans that want to open a small business, allowing them to utilize their skills accrued in the military for increased economic opportunity. Both members of Congress are dedicated to ensuring veterans a smooth transition to civilian life and enabling many to own a small business.

Read the op-ed [here](#).

## Former McDonald's CEO Pens Op-Ed on Joint Employer



Former President and CEO of McDonald's, Ed Rensi, penned an op-ed in Forbes discussing the uncertainty of the joint employer ruling in wake of the NLRB's decision last month to overturn the standard. Rensi argues that the decision will hurt minorities the most, who disproportionately use the franchise system, and the only permanent solution would be to pass the [Save Local Business Act](#) in the Senate.



athlete who competed in the men's javelin throw event during his career.[1] He twice represented Great Britain at the Summer Olympics: 1984 and 1988. In 1992 he was an alternate for the GB Olympic Team and in 1996 was an alternate for USA Olympic team. Bradstock competed in the 2000, 2004 and 2008 USAT&F Olympic Trials. Bradstock is affiliated with [Dacorum and Tring Athletic Club].

In addition to being an Olympic athlete, Bradstock is also an Olympic artist dubbed "The Olympic Picasso".

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## Franchising Facts - Did You Know?

Unsurprisingly, the United States has the greatest number of franchise brands operating within its borders with about 2,500.

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