

Congressman Rothman Meets with New Jersey Members from the Blind Entrepreneurs Alliance

(Washington, DC) – On Thursday, May 21, 2009, Congressman Steve Rothman met with New Jersey members of the Blind Entrepreneurs Alliance, representing the towns of Metuchen, Freehold, Edison and Rutherford, New Jersey. These local small businesspeople discussed increasing business opportunities for the blind and asked Rep. Rothman for his continued support for the Randolph-Sheppard Act, which is a federal law that mandates a priority to blind persons to operate vending and other service facilities on federal property.

The Blind Entrepreneurs Alliance is a coalition consisting of The National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, advocates for the blind, private sector partners and blind merchants themselves who advocate for increasing economic opportunities for blind entrepreneurs and the continued enforcement of the Randolph-Sheppard Act. The Act was first passed by Congress in 1936 and updated in 1974, and remains unique among programs for persons with disabilities in that it creates entrepreneurial, rather than employment, opportunities. Their contracts and permits include managing vending machines at rest stops along federal highways; running vending machines, snack bars and cafeterias in federal office buildings; and operating troop dining facilities.

Pictured L to R: Lynn Reynolds, Daniel Faccini, Rep. Rothman, Nicky Gross and Anna DeSantis

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, May 22, 2009

CONTACT: Carrie Giddins, 202-225-5061; 202-420-1524 (cell)