

Dilawar Syed

Dilawar Syed is an entrepreneur, educator, and former senior U.S. government official working at the intersection of business, technology, and public policy. He serves on the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs and McCombs School of Business, and founded the LBJ Business Policy Forum to advance ideas that strengthen American competitiveness.

Following bipartisan confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Dilawar served as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. He helped expand access to capital and federal contracting, and coordinated the SBA's response to major disasters. Earlier, as Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, he was America's top commercial diplomat, championing U.S. companies globally and mobilizing private-sector support for Ukraine.

For over two decades, Dilawar has built and led ventures in Silicon Valley — as CEO of Lumiata, an AI healthcare company, and in establishing Freshworks' North American business ahead of its IPO. He currently serves on the board of and advises AI startups. He holds an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin.

