

Dilawar Syed

Dilawar Syed is an entrepreneur, professor, 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 is the founder of the LBJ Business Policy Forum, which advances 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, the Cabinet agency's second-highest-ranking official. He expanded 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 served as America's top commercial diplomat, championing U.S. companies globally and mobilizing private-sector support for Ukraine.

Dilawar previously served as CEO of Lumiata, an AI healthcare company, and established Freshworks' North American business before its IPO. He holds an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin.

