

**Fiscal Year 2008 Funding for the Survey of Business Owners
and Self-Employed Persons
Letter to House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations
Subcommittee Chairman Mollohan and
Ranking Member Frelinghuysen**

On August 16, 2007, Advocacy sent a letter to the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Chairman and Ranking Member describing the unintended consequences of a proposed funding cut to the Census budget in the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill (H.R. 3093). If enacted, the cut would jeopardize the Survey of Business Owners and Self-Employed Persons (SBO), on which Advocacy and researchers depend to understand the contributions and challenges of small business.

- The Office of Advocacy is congressionally mandated to report on small business ownership by women, minorities, veterans, and service-disabled veterans and substantially relies on the data collected in the SBO to carry out that mission.
- The SBO is a vital resource because it is the only comprehensive, regularly collected survey that provides information on the economic and demographic characteristics of the nation's businesses and business owners. The loss of this data will hamper policymakers and researchers' understanding of the many contributions and challenges of U.S. small businesses.
- The SBO is one of the few data sources that discuss the number of franchise, family-owned, and home-based businesses in the United States. With the information from the SBO survey, the Office of Advocacy can better conduct research that recognizes the financing needs of small business and other issues of importance.

To view a copy of the letter, please go to: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/>. For the most recent list of research studies produced by the Office of Advocacy using the Survey of Business Owners (SBO) and the firm size data from the U.S. Census Bureau, please go to: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/research>.