

June 4, 2003

### House Committee Approves Akin/Schrock Legislation

WASHINGTON- The U.S. House Committee on Small Business voted unanimously today to approve legislation brought forth by Subcommittee Chairmen Todd Akin (R-MO) and Ed Schrock (R-VA).

This legislation, entitled The Small Business Advocacy Improvement Act of 2003 (H.R. 1772), strengthens the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, enabling it to operate more autonomously on behalf of small businesses and entrepreneurs, through the use of a protected line item in the President's budget and create a new principal deputy chief counsel. The legislation also authorizes a larger budget for the Office of Advocacy to hire more staff, thereby increasing its vigilance on excessive regulations. In addition, the bill encourages the SBA Ombudsman to work more closely with the Office of Advocacy in coordinating opinions on the impact of regulations on small businesses.

"We have heard nothing but praises from constituents and members, on both sides of the aisle, for the Office of Advocacy," stated Rep. Akin. "H.R. 1772 will ensure that the Office of Advocacy is empowered and protected enough to continue doing such a commendable job."

This bill adheres to the President's call for a stronger Office of Advocacy, which was announced last year in his Agenda for Small Business. The Senate is expected to pass a similar bill within the next several weeks.