



WCOE WASHINGTON UPDATE AS OF JULY 18, 2023

House Committee on Small Business Addresses WCOE Issues

The U.S. House Committee on Small Business held a full Committee markup and passed several bills with unanimous bipartisan votes that may be of interest to WCOE members. The bills now await action by the full House.

[H.R. 4670](#) – *The Small Business Contracting Transparency Act of 2023* – introduced by Reps. Houlahan (D-6-PA), Scholten (D-3-MI), and Stauber (R-8-MN)

The bill would require the SBA to provide a report on certification activities and contract awards within the Women's Owned Small Business (WOSB), HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zones), and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) programs. WCOE supported eliminating self-certification for WOSB firms because it exposed the program to fraud and abuse. Despite approving four entities for third-party party certification, WOSB members certifying or re-certifying have indicated the certification process is not working efficiently.

[H.R. 4671](#) – *The Corrective Action Report Oversight and Accountability Act* – introduced by Reps. Gluesenkamp Perez (D-3-WA) and Meuser (R-9-PA)

This bill would clarify the kinds of information regarding contracting goals that agencies submit in annual reports. It would also require agencies to include their views on what worked and what did not work in their effort to increase small business contracting. WCOE has long held that the SBA Procurement Scorecard needs reform. WCOE supports efforts to provide more complete information on agency WOSB set-aside goals, including how many WOSB contracts are awarded, and the value of contracts by each agency. WOSB has also supported bills that would reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise (ICWBE) for agencies to share effective strategies for engaging WOSBs in order for them to win more contract awards.

[H.R. 4668](#) – *The POST IT Act* – introduced by Rep. Molinaro (R-19-NY)

This bill would create a centralized location to find guidance documents and updated policy directives so businesses will know where to go to find all information on how to comply with a regulation. This would help women-owned small businesses who frequently operate with limited cashflow and staff, keep up with federal guidance on regulations.

House Passes NDAA Bill/Senate Moving Forward

The U.S. House of Representatives passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) despite some controversial amendments. The Senate is beginning consideration of its bill. The NDAA bill is one appropriations bill that passes every year and typically gets loaded with amendments, many of them related to construction. WCOE supported a bipartisan amendment by **Rep. Stauber (R-8-MN)** for timely partial-payment of agency required change-orders on federal projects and supporting potential Senate amendments to support WOSBs in winning more contract awards. WCOE has worked with Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) on her bill, S. 1470, Accountability in Women Owned Small Business Contracting Act, as a potential amendment to the Senate NDAA bill. After both the House and the Senate pass their respective version of the bill, a final bill will have to be negotiated and passed by both houses before it can go to the President for signing into law.

SBA Releases Small Business Procurement Scorecard

On Tuesday, July 18, The Small Business Administration announced the release of its [fiscal 2022 Small Business Federal Procurement Scorecard](#). It found agencies spent a record \$162.9 billion dollars on small business contracts last year — an \$8.7 billion increase from fiscal 2021. However, the WOSB program's 5% contracting goal was not met. Since 1996, the WOSB goal has been met only twice.

WCOE Members:

Contact your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#) at their DC or local offices to express your support or opposition on issues of concern.
Constituent engagement has an impact.