

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
109th Congress  
**Committee on Small Business**  
2561 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6315

April 4, 2005

The Honorable Thomas M. Sullivan  
Chief Counsel for Advocacy  
Office of Advocacy  
Small Business Administration  
409 3<sup>rd</sup> St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20416

RE: Questions for the record - Hearing on HR 682

Dear Chief Counsel Sullivan:

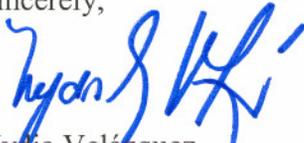
Following up on my questions during the hearing on HR 682, the Regulatory Information Improvement Act, please provide the following information for the record:

1. A detailed estimate over your signature stating the number of panels Advocacy does per year; the resources allocated to such panels; the number of panels Advocacy expects if HR 682 is adopted without amendments; and, Advocacy's analysis of its cost to Advocacy in resources if the bill passes.
2. Since your office does the most work with the RFA and the panel process, it would be helpful if you could suggest less burdensome procedures than universal panels that could help achieve the RFA goal of educating regulators about the impact of their regulations on small businesses. It is important that these proposals use fewer resources but still retain the ability to focus the agency's attention. For example, could discretion be given to Advocacy and/or OIRA to convene a panel for any agency? If so, what controls would be reasonable? Should agencies be compelled to reference the studies or data they used to support a proposed regulation in the preamble and make the data publicly available unless classified or privileged?
3. Please provide the legislative language to carry out the amendments to HR 682 that you recommended in your testimony.

4. Please provide an explanation for the reduction in the in the number of EPA panels over the past few years. Are there a significant number of regulations stuck in the pipeline? (If so please list the regulations you expect to be brought out for panels this year.)
5. During your testimony to this committee you stated: "I think Dr. John Graham has been pretty good in looking at some of the numbers, and he recently estimated that the number of new rules from this administration is 75% less than the last one." We have been unable to locate or verify that estimation. Could you clarify your statement or indicate the source of the finding?

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to complete the record. As I said at the hearing, Advocacy should be justly proud of what they have accomplished.

Sincerely,



Nydia Velázquez  
Ranking Minority Member