

## White House Conference on Small Business

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### **Problem:**

Not since 1995 has an administration assembled a White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB). It has been more than 20 years since the last WHCSB and NSBA strongly believes it is time to convene a gathering to develop a cohesive small-business agenda to ensure the government is taking an active, appropriate role in fostering entrepreneurial development.

- Comprising more than 99 percent of all U.S. private sector employers and 64 percent of net new private sector jobs, small-business owners continue to face countless challenges in their efforts to build and grow their companies, and invest and create jobs, which has been detrimental to stronger economic growth.
- There have been three WHCSB, occurring in 1980, 1986, and 1995. They were convened by Presidents Jimmy Carter (originating by Executive Order 12091), Ronald Reagan (originating from Congressional authorization of P.L. 98-276) and Bill Clinton (originating from Congressional authorization P.L. 101-409) in an effort to foster better relationships with the business community, Congress and the White House to develop innovative policy solutions to economic problems.
- All three Conferences shared similar organizational formats and activities, with differences generated in process and outcomes. In addition, the 1995 Conference delegates elected regional implementation teams that worked closely with the Small Business Administration (SBA) in monitoring congressional and executive branch action on the 1995 Conference's recommendations after the Conference had ended. The SBA attributed much of the 1995 Conference's implementation "success rate" to the efforts of these implementation teams.

### **Solution:**

As a testament to the critical role small business plays in the U.S. economy, NSBA is calling on President Donald Trump to support and Congress to authorize and appropriate funds for a WHCSB within the next two years.

- NSBA strongly urges Congress to take-up bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Rod Blum (R-Iowa), Stephanie Murphy (D-Fl.), and Al Lawson (D-Fl.) that calls to convene a WHCSB to reunite the wide variety of voices within the small-business community to help educate Congress, federal agencies and the White House on issues that matter most to small businesses; enabling them to build and grow their companies, invest and create jobs and compete and prosper in a global economy.
- The goal of the WHCSB is the development of a comprehensive action agenda to improve the economic environment in the U.S. for small business in the following months and years to come. Inherent to achieving this goal is the coordinated work of Congress through the Senate and House Small Business Committees, the administration through the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Office of Advocacy, and small-business advocacy groups.
- Of the 60 legislative and regulatory recommendations that were the product of the 1995 Conference, more than 90 percent were addressed in some way, and 20 of the 60 recommendations were enacted into law.
- Convening a WHCSB sends a message to the millions of people in the small-business community that Congress and the White House sees their long-term economic security as a priority.