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Advocacy Requests that the Social Security Administration Take Small Hearing Health Care Provider's Comments into Consideration in its Rule Revising Criteria for Evaluating Hearing Loss

On October 10, 2008, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) sent a letter to the Social Security Administration (SSA) asking that the agency take small hearing health care providers' concerns into consideration while promulgating its Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Hearing Loss proposed rule. A copy of Advocacy's letter may be accessed at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments>.

- On August 13, 2008, the SSA published the Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Hearing Loss proposed rule in the *Federal Register* (73 Fed. Reg. 47103). The SSA certified in the Regulatory flexibility Act section of the rule that the regulation would not a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses because it only affected individuals.
- Advocacy received several inquiries from small hearing health care providers voicing concern about their financial ability to comply with the regulation's requirements that will determine the criteria by which the SSA authorizes patients' claims for hearing loss.
- In its October 10, 2008 letter, Advocacy provided the SSA with examples of how certain provisions in the rule would impose significant economic impacts on the affected health care providers, including, for example, the costs of buying sound proof booths for conducting the hearing tests.

For more information, visit Advocacy's web page at www.sba.gov/advo or contact Linwood Rayford at (202) 205-6533.