May 9, 2022

Dear COMPETES/USICA Conference Committee Members,

The undersigned organizations urge you to pass an extension of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs as part of reconciliation of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) and the America COMPETES Act (COMPETES).

We represent small businesses, state medical technology and biotechnology groups, academic and research institutions, and related organizations across the United States and act at the common voice for innovative companies and entrepreneurs producing medical devices, biopharmaceuticals, diagnostic products, and digital health technologies. Our companies are at the center of Congress’ goal to strengthen American competitiveness and SBIR/STTR is a critical component to ensure the United States remains the leader in health advancement.

Many of these small businesses rely on SBIR/STTR funding to advance and de-risk innovative health care solutions. Federal R&D funding also provides a basis for scientific and technical validation, which attracts private investment and supports small businesses developing new therapies for patients.

The SBIR/STTR Programs are currently set to expire on September 30, 2022. It would be damaging to American innovation and competitiveness if these programs were to expire before a full reauthorization can be passed. The SBIR/STTR Programs enable small businesses to develop and commercialize new innovative technologies and have a proven track record of promoting competition through a merit-based application process. Since their establishment in 1982, these programs have provided over 179,000 awards, totaling more than $54.3 billion, to U.S. small businesses. A study by the National Academy of Sciences found a commercialization rate of 50-60% for SBIR/STTR investments.

SBIR/STTR are an essential part of America’s innovative high-tech ecosystem, and even the threat of a short-term disruption of these programs could have a severe effect on R&D-focused small businesses. Federal agencies could also see their research and technology development stalled by a disruption in these programs, which are already built into agency budgets. Both small businesses and the agencies need certainty, stability, and predictability to budget and plan—especially as the nation works to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, we respectfully request that an extension of the SBIR/STTR programs, including related pilot authorities, be included in the USICA and the COMPETES Acts. We think it is a necessary component to strengthen the entire innovation ecosystem. This extension will give Congress the time it needs to develop and pass a comprehensive reauthorization bill for SBIR and STTR, one that includes needed changes and improvements. It will also give both small businesses and federal agencies certainty that these vital programs will not expire or be disrupted.

Sincerely,

The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
Bio Alabama  
AZBio  
Biocom California  
California Life Sciences  
Colorado BioScience Association  
BioCT  
Delaware BioScience Association  
Florida Medical Manufacturer’s Consortium  
Georgia Bio/Center for Global Health Innovation (CGHI)  
Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization (iBIO)  
Indiana Health Industry Forum  
Industry University Research Center, Inc. – INDUNIV  
BioKansas  
Kentucky Life Sciences Council (KLSC)  
Louisiana BIO  
Maryland Tech Council  
MassBIO  
MassMEDIC  
MichBio  
Medical Alley Association (Minnesota)  
Minnesota Technology Association  
Montana BioScience Alliance  
MOBIO  
Bio Nebraska  
BioNJ  
Healthcare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)  
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association  
New York Bio  
North Carolina Biosciences Organization (NCBIO)  
BioOhio  
OKBio
Oregon Bioscience Association
Life Science PA
SBIR Consortium
SCBIO
South Dakota Biotech
Life Science Tennessee
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute
BioUtah
Life Science Washington
Bioscience Association of West Virginia
BioForward Wisconsin