

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Pat Toomey
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

Life Sciences Pennsylvania (LSPA), and the 47 life sciences community leaders below strongly support the reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant programs. We urge you to consider the permanent reauthorization of SBIR and STTR as soon as possible as both programs will expire if not reauthorized before September 30, 2022. In the absence of permanent reauthorization, we support a five-year extension of the program and ask for its inclusion in the *United States Innovation and Competition Act/America COMPETES Act* conference committee's final bill.

The SBIR program was established in 1982 by the *Small Business Innovation Development Act*, and the STTR program was established 10 years later by the *Small Business Research and Development Enhancement Act of 1992*. Since their inception, these complementary programs have been critical in providing small companies with early-stage capital funding. The funding provided through these programs is especially important for life sciences companies, as it helps to de-risk the innovative products companies are pursuing and advances the development of new treatments for patients. These programs also provide scientific and technical validation from which to raise additional capital beyond the award.

Though the programs are industry agnostic, Pennsylvania's life sciences community has benefited significantly from these awards. SBIR/STTR bolsters the commercialization of medicines and technologies from the academic setting to effective, safe, and usable medical products, which is especially important given the Commonwealth's world-class research institutions and entrepreneurial spirit. In fact, in 2021 Pennsylvania life sciences entities were awarded more than \$30 million in SBIR funding. Importantly, the reauthorization of these programs does not require additional government funding. It merely requires federal agencies with extramural R&D budgets of \$100 million for SBIR and \$1 billion for STTR to set aside a portion of their funds for small companies.

We urge Congress to move expeditiously to reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs as the Commonwealth's life sciences community continues its tireless efforts to bring novel cures and technologies to patients.

Sincerely,



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