

## House Passes Bill to Expand Federal Small Business

Washington, D.C. &ndash; Today the House of Representatives passed legislation to expand and reauthorize the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs by a vote of 368 to 43. The SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act (H.R. 5819) extends the programs for two years and implements important reforms to increase funding levels, clarify the eligibility of venture-backed small businesses, and target research projects that will address our nation&rsquo;s critical energy needs.

Washington, D.C. &ndash; Today the House of Representatives passed legislation to expand and reauthorize the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs by a vote of 368 to 43. The SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act (H.R. 5819) extends the programs for two years and implements important reforms to increase funding levels, clarify the eligibility of venture-backed small businesses, and target research projects that will address our nation&rsquo;s critical energy needs.

&ldquo;The SBIR and STTR programs are vital to innovation and the growth of small business in America,&rdquo; said Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Palo Alto). &ldquo;This legislation updates these programs to ensure that small businesses and venture-backed firms continue to play a central role in our global competitiveness and in the preeminence of the U.S. research enterprise.&rdquo; The bill clarifies that small businesses with venture capital funding will continue to be eligible to participate in the SBIR and STTR programs. Hundreds of companies in the 14th Congressional district have been competitively awarded more than \$200 million in SBIR and STTR research grants over the past ten years.

&ldquo;The importance of fostering public-private partnerships cannot be underestimated,&rdquo; said Eshoo. &ldquo;The Speaker&rsquo;s Innovation Agenda recognized the importance of these partnerships, as well as the roles of small business and venture capital in American competitiveness. Reauthorizing the SBIR and STTR programs ensures that the government provides the resources needed to transition scientific discoveries made in U.S. research labs into new therapies and technologies.&rdquo;

# # #