

Dear Colleague:

As Congress crafts legislative packages to stimulate the economy and create jobs, American small businesses should be first and foremost on our minds. I introduced the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act (H.R. 2965) to help small businesses access the capital that they need in this difficult economic climate. H.R. 2965 passed the House and the Senate in 2009, but has yet to be reconciled and signed into law.

H.R. 2965 reauthorizes the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, the largest government-wide R&D initiative, for the first time since the 1990s. For the past 26 years, the SBIR program has supported the growth of some of the nation's most successful, innovative small businesses.

The Enhancing Small Business Innovation and Research Act increases the number of firms eligible for SBIR, removes barriers that small businesses face in accessing capital for R&D and directs the SBIR program to target businesses that are bringing products to market, paving the way for economic growth and job creation in the global economy.

The Enhancing Small Business Innovation and Research Act is a strong, bipartisan bill supported by many industry groups and stakeholders. The text of the letter is below, along with a list of 99 organizations that support the legislation.

I urge you to join me in sending a letter to House Leadership asking that H.R. 2965 be considered for upcoming job creation packages crafted by the House. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nathan Robinson in my office at nathan.robinson@mail.house.gov, or 5-2565.

Sincerely,
Jason Altmire

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

We urge you to consider including the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act (H.R. 2965) in the House text of any upcoming small business job creation packages. As we respond to the current recession, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) are two critical tools in our toolbox. From the simplest perspective, they provide valuable seed money for entrepreneurs who are willing to explore untested concepts and, ultimately, develop new products. Further, this legislation broadens the types of businesses that participate in the SBIR program by expanding outreach to rural entrepreneurs as well as businesses headed by women and veterans. This allows a more diverse set of firms to participate in the program, improving competition and products created by these small businesses.

The Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act has passed both the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support in July 2009, making it a candidate with appeal in both houses and both parties. Additionally, as you are aware, President Barack Obama has called for Congress to entertain ideas for small business job creation, including using his Feb. 6 weekly radio address to talk up small business proposals saying, "Next week, Congress will start debating many of these proposals. And if anyone has additional ideas to support small businesses and create jobs, I'm happy to consider them." The bipartisan Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act meets these two criteria, an indication that it stands to garner administration support for inclusion in upcoming Congressional proposals.

In the current economic environment, it is difficult for small businesses to access financing by any means, through venture capital or otherwise. The SBIR and STTR programs are just two ways that we can help small businesses to continue creating the jobs of the future.

For these reasons, we urge you to include the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act in upcoming legislation designed to promote jobs.

Sincerely,

Supporting Groups:

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
American Association for Dental Research (IADR)
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
American Association of Anatomists (AAA)
American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)
American College of Radiology (ACR)
American Educational Research Association (AERA)
American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)
American Liver Foundation (ALF)
American Mathematical Society (AMS)
American Psychological Association (APA)
American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (ASBMB)
American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP)
American Society for Nutrition (ASN)
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)
American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
American Statistical Association (ASA)
Arizona State University
Association for Psychological Science (APS)
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI)
Association of Population Centers (APC)
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A?P?L?U)
Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)
Biophysical Society (BPS)
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)
Boston University School of Medicine
California Institute of Technology
Case Western Reserve University
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR)
Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS)
Coalition to Protect Research (CPR)
Columbia University
Computing Research Association (CRA)
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)
Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI)
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders (CEREL)
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors
Duke University

Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC)
Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS)
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences (FBPCS)
Harvard University
Indiana University
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR)
Ktech Corporation
Michigan State University
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs (NCBBSC)
National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE)
National Health Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
North Carolina State University
NYU Langone Medical Center
Ornithological Council
Population Association of America (PAA)
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Small Business California
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)
Society for Neuroscience (SfN)
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR)
Stanford University
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Syracuse University
The American Association of Immunologists (AAI)
The American Brain Coalition (ABC)
The American Physiological Society (APS)
The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB)
The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)
The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)
The Endocrine Society
The Ohio State University
The Teratology Society
Tulane University
University of Cincinnati
University of Maryland
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Miami
University of Minnesota Medical School
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas Health Science Center
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Weill Cornell Medical College
Yale University School of Medicine