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Massachusetts Biotechnology Council
700 Technology Square, 5th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139

August 17, 2022

Dear Member of the Massachusetts Delegation:

On behalf of MassBio and our 1,500+ members, we want to urge you to pass an extension of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (NDAA).

MassBio currently represents over 1,500 life sciences companies, academic institutions, service providers and patient organizations, the majority of which are directly engaged in the research, development and manufacturing of innovative products that solve unmet medical needs for patients around the world. Many of our members are small, emerging companies that 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 to 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 is passed. The SBIR/STTR programs enable small businesses to develop and commercialize new innovative technologies and have a proven history of promoting competition through a merit-based application process. Since 2018, these programs have provided over \$594 million in awards to Massachusetts small businesses in the life sciences space.

SBIR/STTR programs are an essential part of Massachusetts' innovative 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.

We respectfully request that an extension of the SBIR/STTR programs be included as part of the NDAA. We think it is a necessary component to strengthen the entire innovation ecosystem here in Massachusetts for years to come. 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 interrupted.

Respectfully,

Joe Boncore
Chief Executive Officer