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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Joni Ernst
Chair
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Williams
Chair
House Committee on Small Business
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Ernst, Ranking Member Markey, Chairman Williams, and Ranking Member Velazquez:

I write to strongly urge you to come to an agreement to resume funding for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) programs. Among other things, this critical funding helps ensure that lifesaving rare disease research and treatment can continue. Failure to reauthorize these programs in a timely fashion will have disastrous impacts for Long Islanders and Americans across the country.

Families across Long Island and the United States rely on funding under the SBIR/STTR programs to provide capital for businesses at the cutting edge of medical research and technological innovation. This investment provides an immense return to taxpayers, generating an estimated \$22 to \$33 return for every dollar invested, strengthening our economy while giving small businesses the resources to innovate.

Funding for these programs lapsed on October 1, 2025, and I have heard directly from my constituents about how harmful this loss of funding will be. In one specific case, a child in my district receives therapeutic treatment for a rare genetic disorder at a lab that relies on SBIR/STTR funding. Without a reauthorization or passing the clean one-year extension, this lab will be forced to close, and my constituent will no longer be able to receive the specialized care they need. I trust you understand that failure to reauthorize these programs will have serious, and potentially deadly, consequences.

I was proud to help pass the bipartisan one-year extension of the SBIR/STTR programs in the House of Representatives in September of last year. Unfortunately, the Senate has yet to take up this legislation or release its own proposal. As you continue to negotiate a long-term

reauthorization of the SBIR/STTR programs, I am concerned that further delay will not only risk our innovative edge, but also lifesaving research and treatment for the American people.

I urge you to reach a bipartisan agreement or pass a clean one-year extension as soon as possible to provide certainty for families on Long Island and across the country. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laura A. Gillen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress