



March 20, 2026

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
Chair, Committee on Small Business &  
Entrepreneurship  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Edward Markey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Small  
Business & Entrepreneurship  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Roger Williams  
Chair, Committee on Small Business  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez  
Ranking Member, Committee on Small  
Business  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Brian Babin  
Chair, Committee on Science, Space and  
Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member, Committee on Science,  
Space and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair Ernst, Ranking Member Markey, Chair Williams, Ranking Member Velázquez,  
Chair Babin, and Ranking Member Lofgren,

On behalf of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and AUTM, we write to thank you for working together to pass S. 3971, the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act. The bill reauthorizes the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs and immediately reopens these essential programs following a five-month lapse in authorization.

Combined, our membership is made up of hundreds of research universities, medical schools, and technology transfer offices that are at the forefront of American innovation. Researchers at our member institutions utilize the SBIR and STTR programs to strengthen and grow the prosperity of America's innovation enterprise. Collectively, the programs help federally funded university researchers bridge the lab to marketplace "valley of death" to create valuable marketplace products that benefit the economy in technological areas such as defense and medicine. This five-year extension allows the SBIR and STTR programs to continue to thrive and push innovation and U.S. competitiveness forward.

Thank you again for advancing this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

Association of American Universities (AAU)

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

American Council on Education (ACE)

AUTM