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## **SBIR REAUTHORIZATION BRINGS KEY BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN CONGRESS**

### ***PROGRAM HAS CREATED 1.5 MILLION JOBS TO DATE***

**Washington, DC** - Small businesses across the country today praised a bipartisan group from the U.S. House of Representatives for issuing a strong letter supporting a government program critical to job creation and innovation.

Led by Reps. Edward Markey (D-MA), Niki Tsongas (D-MA), and Peter Welch (D-VT), 25 Members called on the leadership of the House Small Business Committee to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program to “reflect(s) the program’s true intent: fostering innovative and cutting-edge research at small businesses.”

The House letter [http://tsongas.house.gov/uploads/10\\_11\\_11\\_SBIR\\_Letter.pdf](http://tsongas.house.gov/uploads/10_11_11_SBIR_Letter.pdf), signed by Democrats and Republicans, was written to Small Business Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) and Ranking Member Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) at a critical time, as these leaders negotiate a final SBIR reauthorization bill with their counterparts in the U.S. Senate.

At issue are provisions in the House bill (H.R. 1425) American small business leaders believe would undermine competition in this merit-based program. The SBIR program has been given a series of short-term extensions with the current one expiring on **November 18**. Failure to reach a House-Senate agreement may cause the program to lapse, with devastating consequences to U.S. job creation during these tenuous economic times. In their letter, the Members wrote, “as representatives of Congressional districts where SBIR spurs innovation, creates jobs and exemplifies the successful possibilities of targeted government investment, we cannot risk letting this crucial program lapse.”

“Representatives Markey, Tsongas, and Welch and their colleagues are to be commended for taking a strong stand in support of American small businesses who are the engines of job creation, innovation, and technological development,” said Robert F. Weiss, Chairman of the national Save SBIR Coalition. “These Members have articulated a clear path forward to allow Congress to achieve a workable, long-term reauthorization of the SBIR program, and their efforts are very much appreciated by entrepreneurs across the nation.”

"I applaud the bipartisan members of the U.S. House of Representatives who took a firm stand today on behalf of small business," said Jere Glover, Executive Director of the Small Business Technology Council, the nation's largest association of small, technology-based companies in diverse fields. "Our nation is recovering from the worst recession since the Great Depression and there is overwhelming support for these programs, which will provide an important stimulus to jump start the commercialization of new products and technologies."

In contrast to the House bill, legislation passed by the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (S. 493) has the strong support of Save SBIR and a broad array of large and small business organizations, scientific entities, and the venture capital community.

Below is the link to today's Members' press release.

<http://tsongas.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=49&sectiontree=123,49&itemid=569>

For more information, visit our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/SaveSBIR>

The Markey-Tsongas-Welch letter was signed by the following Members of the House:

Ed Markey (D-MA), Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Peter Welch (D-VT), Jackie Speier (D-CA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Bill Keating (D-MA), David Cicilline (D-RI), David McKinley (R-WV), Lois Capps (D-CA), Laura Richardson (D-CA), Joe Courtney (D-CT), Jared Polis (D-CO), John Tierney (D-MA), Paul Tonko (D-NY), Sam Farr (D-CA), Jim Langevin (D-RI), Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Pete Stark (D-CA), Bill Posey (R-FL), Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Don Manzullo (R-IL), Maxine Waters (D-CA), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ).