



September 13, 2022

The Honorable Senator Michael Bennet  
 Russell Senate Office Building  
 2 Constitution Ave NE, Suite SR-261  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator John Hickenlooper  
 Russell Senate Office Building  
 2 Constitution Ave NE, Suite SR-374  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper:

We, the undersigned Colorado business leaders, are respectfully writing to share our support for the reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business

Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs. The programs fund scientific excellence and technological innovation through the investment of federal research dollars in critical American priorities. They contribute to a strong economy at the federal and state level. Most importantly, they advance breakthroughs that reinforce America's global leadership in science and technology. We strongly urge you to support the reauthorization of the SBIR and STTR Programs. Without action by Congress, the programs will expire on September 30, 2022.

### SBIR/STTR Programs and Colorado's Life Sciences Ecosystem

The SBIR and STTR Programs are vital for Colorado's life sciences community. They provide early, non-dilutive funding to advance high-risk, early-stage innovative research. Year after year, these programs make a positive impact on Colorado's economy by funding life-saving breakthroughs for patients, supporting small businesses, and creating jobs.

Colorado has more than 720 life sciences organizations across Colorado that drive innovations, products, and services to improve and save lives. Our state is the center of life sciences for the Rocky Mountain region, directly employing over 32,000 people and spinning out an average of 20 new life sciences companies each year.

The SBIR and STTR Programs have had a significant impact on Colorado's life sciences growth. Our state has received more than 6,035 awards totaling more than \$2.76 billion dollars since program inception. Nationally, the SBIR and STTR Programs have provided more than 179,000 awards totaling more than \$54.3 billion to U.S. small businesses since 1982. A study by the National Academy of Sciences found a commercialization rate of 50-60% for SBIR/STTR investments.

The Colorado life sciences community is largely comprised of small, early-stage companies that play a crucial role in the development of breakthrough technologies and therapies that are leading to improved patient outcomes and reduced health care costs. These companies look to critically important public sources like the SBIR and STTR Programs for needed capital that accelerates the commercialization of promising discoveries. As the high cost of conducting biomedical research continues to grow, this "first money" becomes increasingly important for attracting additional capital and private investors.

We strongly urge you to support the reauthorization of the SBIR and STTR Programs. Allowing even a short disruption of these programs could have negative consequences for high-tech small businesses that thrive on stability and predictability to budget and plan, especially as we all work together to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and overcome the economic challenges it triggered.

Thank you for your consideration and all that you do to support the people and economy of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Elyse Blazeovich  
President and CEO  
Colorado BioScience Association

Kevin Hougen  
President and CEO  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce

Kieran O’Kane  
Chief Commercial Officer  
Biodesix Inc.

John Tayer  
President & CEO  
Boulder Chamber of Commerce

Scott J. Sternberg  
Executive Director  
Boulder Economic Council

Mary Austin  
Executive Director  
Colorado Cleantech Industries Association

Dan Powers  
Executive Director  
CO-LABS

Loren Furman  
President & CEO  
Colorado Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Hadwiger  
Division Director, Global Business  
Development  
Colorado Office of Economic Development  
and International Trade

Alan Rudolph, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research  
Colorado State University

Richard Magid  
Vice President, Technology Transfer  
CSU STRATA

Kimberly Muller, Esq.  
Executive Director  
CU Innovations, University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus

J.J. Ament  
President and CEO  
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Michael L. Weiner  
Partner  
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

Kourtny Garrett  
President & CEO  
Downtown Denver Partnership

Heather Underwood, Ph.D.  
CEO  
EvoEndo, Inc.

April Giles  
Vice President Business Development  
Fitzsimons Innovation Community

Jake Chabon, Ph.D.  
Co-founder and CEO/CSO  
Foresight Diagnostics Inc.

Andy Sklawler  
Co-Founder, President & COO  
Fresh Tracks Therapeutics

Mike Freeman  
General Partner  
Innosphere Ventures

Phillip Ebner  
Executive Director | Life Sciences | Middle  
Market Banking & Specialized Industries  
JP Morgan

Tom Vierzba  
President and CEO  
Live Fully

Raymond H. Gonzales  
EVP, Denver Metro Chamber & President,  
Metro Denver EDC  
Metro Denver EDC

Anthony D. Piscopio, Ph.D.  
President and CEO  
OnKure Therapeutics Inc.

Peter Adams  
Associate Director  
Rockies Venture Club

Mark Bruning  
President & CEO  
Securisyn Medical

Jeff Keener  
President/CEO  
South Metro Denver Chamber

Anil Mathai  
Vice President – Quality & Regulatory  
Compliance  
STAQ Pharma

Alan Sage  
CEO and Board Member  
Vaporox

CC: Representative Lauren Boebert  
Representative Ken Buck  
Representative Jason Crow  
Representative Diana DeGette  
Representative Doug Lamborn  
Representative Joe Neguse  
Representative Ed Perlmutter