



JOHN CONRAD  
PRESIDENT & CEO

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Jonathan Jackson,  
Representative, District 1

The Honorable Robin Kelly,  
Representative, District 2

The Honorable Delia Ramirez,  
Representative, District 3

The Honorable Jesús García,  
Representative, District 4

The Honorable Mike Quigley,  
Representative, District 5

The Honorable Sean Casten,  
Representative, District 6

The Honorable Danny K. Davis,  
Representative, District 7

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi,  
Representative, District 8

Senator Tammy Duckworth  
Illinois

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky,  
Representative, District 9

The Honorable Brad Schneider,  
Representative, District 10

The Honorable Bill Foster,  
Representative, District 11

The Honorable Mike Bost,  
Representative, District 12

The Honorable Nikki Budzinski,  
Representative, District 13

The Honorable Lauren Underwood,  
Representative, District 14

The Honorable Darin LaHood,  
Representative, District 16

The Honorable Eric Sorensen,  
Representative, District 17

Senator Dick Durbin  
Illinois

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation,

The Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization (iBIO) and 73 companies and organizations that have signed this letter representing Illinois's life sciences community urge you to pass an extension of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs before they expire on September 30.

iBIO represents Illinois' thriving life sciences ecosystem, which employs more than 94,000 professionals across the state. Our community includes research-intensive biotechnology companies, academic institutions, and investors developing breakthrough treatments for cancer, rare diseases, and other critical health challenges.

The SBIR/STTR programs, established in 1982, are the largest source of early-stage capital for biomedical R&D startups. Their expiration would be a crushing blow to American innovation and small business job creation. These programs provide certainty, stability, and predictability that both small businesses and federal agencies need to budget and plan for the future.

For Illinois specifically, startup high-tech companies annually receive \$75 million in Phase I and II SBIR grants. These funds are critical to launch companies out of our university labs and create real jobs and



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innovation in Illinois. The State of Illinois further amplifies this impact through its SBIR Phase I matching grant program.

“SBIR funding has been transformative for Rhaeos. It enabled us to complete a 9-center pivotal study in support of FDA approval and funded clinical-grade device builds that have now been used on over 400 patients across the country. This critical early-stage support allowed us to spin out of Northwestern University and build the company in Illinois—creating 10 full-time jobs and allowing us to move into new lab and office space in Fulton Market. SBIR also enabled us to collaborate with leading institutions including Northwestern, Lurie Children’s Hospital, UIC, Duke, UCSF, and others. In addition, it helped us reach key technical and clinical milestones that attracted top-tier investors and enabled us to successfully close our oversubscribed Series A round. Without SBIR funding, FlowSense may have never made it out of the lab and into the hands of clinicians caring for the over one million Americans living with hydrocephalus.” Read more company testimonials below.

With this in mind, iBIO and the undersigned companies and associations respectfully request that you pass an extension of the SBIR/STTR programs prior to the September 30 expiration. This extension will give Congress time to develop a comprehensive reauthorization bill while ensuring these vital programs continue without disruption.

iBIO and the undersigned companies and associations urge immediate action to ensure the continuity of these essential programs that fuel innovation, create jobs, and advance medical breakthroughs that improve and save lives.

Sincerely,

John Conrad, President and CEO, Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization (iBIO)

Max Derbyshire, Acorn Genetics

Dana Edelson, AgileMD

Ashish Khanna, Allosite Therapeutics

Nick Sather, Amphix Bio

Peng Ji, Aplexis, Inc.

Rachel Kaberon, ArKay solutions ltd

Josh Rabinowitz, Articulate Labs

Kathleen Wisemandle, Aspire to Grow, LLC

Elaine Warren, Aventino Technology Solutions - SurvivorPlan

George Politis, Azimuth MedTech LLC

Bart Carlson, Azuba Corporation

Meesha Dogan, Cardio Diagnostics, Inc.



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Adam Sobol, CareBand, Inc.  
Eric Schiffhauer & Amanda Pinheiro, Chicago Biomedical Consortium  
Georgina Mancinelli, CiRC Biosciences  
Kathleen Wolin, Circea LLC  
Mia Subade, Clarix Imaging  
Christopher Weber, Claudyn Biotech  
Brett Newswanger, ClostraBio, Inc.  
Craig Scherer, CS HealthTech Advisory  
Bill Snyder, Cylinder Health  
Caralynn Nowinski Collens, Dimension Bio  
Clifford Turner, DNARP CONSULTING, LLC  
Christopher Wilson, EDGe Surgical  
Jim McGough, EdgeOne Medical Inc.  
Ruitu Lyu, Ellis Bio  
Gerald Wilson, EnterpriseWorks, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
Amanda Schalk, Enzyme by Design Inc.  
Moses Hohman, Flare Health  
Mitchell Ayers, Geminii Health  
Sateja Paradkar, Glimmer Therapeutics  
Jessica Torres, GLS  
Paul Bertin, Grove Biopharma, Inc.  
Geeta Singh, GSI Advisory  
William Nelson, Healthy Amplified, Inc.  
Patrick Rousche, Hemotek Medical Inc  
Joe Whalen & Kenneth Johnson, Immedica  
Neil Kelleher, ImmPro  
Gongbo Li, Immunebro Therapeutics Inc.  
Kenneth Johnson, Immedica North America  
Henry Markarian & Niranjana Kulkarni, Integrated Dynamics, Inc.  
Lucas Shores, Laborecom Therapeutics Inc.  
Melody Roberts, Liv Labs Inc.  
Dennis Degelmann, Mach5 Investment Properties



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Tyler Wanke, MadSci  
Steven Collens, MATTER  
Jeffrey Osuji, MD Newsline  
Melissa Lederer, mHUB  
Yuxin Wang, Mobile Imaging Innovations, Inc.  
Rajan Giri GIRI, N'waii Inc.  
Yevgenia Kozorovitskiy, Neuroplastica  
Kyle Bonesteel, Neurostratus  
Pi Zonooz, Nimblemind INC  
Craig Davis, NovaScan Inc  
Julie Byars, Ontogen Medtech  
Gerry Sapienza, Opera Bioscience  
Patrick Conniff, OrisDX  
Bernhard Kappe, Orthogonal  
Meghan Doyle, Partum Health  
Matthew Martin & Daniel Jacobs, Pathway Bioventures  
Bryan Dickinson, PeptiForge  
Gianina Varea & Elizabeth Harney, Portal Innovations  
Keiji Asadq, Progenicyte Therapeutics, Inc  
Mike Mersinger, PurelyMed  
Dimitra Georganopoulou, Qral Ventures  
Jeffrey Montgomery, ReAx Biotechnologies  
Anna Lisa Somera, Rhaeos, Inc  
Michael Rosen, Rosen Bioscience Strategies LLC  
Richard Vazquez, SafeStart Medical Inc.  
Richard Johnson & Oana Truica, Saros Therapeutics  
Rifat Hasina, Self  
Ashley Shannon, Signl  
Steve Lindo, Simergent  
Gene Powell, Spoke Design LLC  
Robert Quinn, SymGym Inc.  
Elena Boselli, Synaptomed



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John Craighead, Syntax Bio

David Buchanan, Town Square Health

David Mann, TRACT Therapeutics

Michael Flavin, University of Illinois Chicago

Christine Rohan, Vasowatch Inc

Vikas Berry, Viroscope Inc

Ben Kim, Volexion

Sheri Rudberg, WovenX Health

Tom Shea, Xentria