



JOHN CONRAD  
PRESIDENT & CEO

August XX, 2025

Illinois Congressional Delegation:

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  
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 Mary Miller, Representative, District 15  
The Honorable Darin LaHood, Representative, District 16  
The Honorable Eric Sorensen, Representative, District 17

Dear Representatives of Illinois,

On behalf of the Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization (iBIO) and the broader Illinois life sciences community, we strongly urge you to support and pass an extension of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs prior to the September 30 expiration.

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.



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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 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)

Illinois Life Sciences Community Members: