



April 26, 2016

Chairman David Vitter  
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
428A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Steve Chabot  
Committee on Small Business  
House of Representatives  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen  
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
428A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Nydia Velázquez  
Committee on Small Business  
House of Representatives  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Vitter and Chabot and Ranking Members Shaheen and Velázquez,

On behalf of our nation's venture capital investors and the entrepreneurs they support, I write to applaud your leadership in advancing the *SBIR and STTR Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2016* (S. 2812) and the *Commercializing on Small Business Innovation Act of 2016* (H.R. 4783).

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs are vital tools to support entrepreneurship in the United States. Venture-backed companies that have received SBIR funding have made incredible contributions to our economy, including breakthroughs in identify theft, regenerative wound healing therapies, biometric sensor technology, and military technology prototype development, just to name a few. These companies are positively impacting Americans through high-quality jobs and groundbreaking innovation.

The National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) fully supports your efforts to reauthorize SBIR and STTR this year, as waiting until next year could unnecessarily jeopardize the program. By reauthorizing these programs this year, Congress will give needed certainty to entrepreneurs and venture capital investors who work jointly to create the next "big thing." In addition, we are pleased that neither S. 2812 nor H.R. 4783 make changes to SBIR and STTR that disadvantage startups that have received venture capital funding.

Thank you for your commitment to the entrepreneurial ecosystem. We encourage Congress to reauthorize SBIR and STTR without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Franklin". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Bobby" and "Franklin" being capitalized and prominent.

Bobby Franklin  
President & CEO