



April 22, 2008

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0460 F 202 862 6161
www.aamc.org

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Vern Ehlers
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ehlers:

As President of the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges), I write to thank you for your leadership in proposing amendments to address the provisions in the "SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act" (H.R. 5819) that would increase the set-asides imposed on most federal science agencies to fund the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Research (STTR) programs. The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 129 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and 94 academic and scientific societies.

The AAMC supports your amendments to retain the set-asides at their current levels or to permit increases only for those agencies that receive the full funding levels authorized under the America COMPETES Act. While the AAMC supports the objectives of the SBIR and STTR programs, it is essential that increases for these programs not come at the expense of the funding for the science agencies' other core programs.

Again, we thank you for your leadership and support your efforts to amend H.R. 5789.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.