

small businesses across our nation to encourage them to innovate and commercialize new technologies, products, and services. Our legislation would provide key improvements to the SBIR and STTR programs, which were last reauthorized in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

As our Nation emerges from this devastating recession, the worst since World War II, we must ensure that America once again brings to bear the kind of ingenuity, creativity, and innovation that made America and our free market economy the greatest, most powerful on Earth. Indeed, innovation is the “space race” of the 21st century—only this time it is not the U.S. versus Russia; it is the U.S. versus every nation that is jockeying for the lead position and an economic foothold.

The bill we have introduced will greatly help America win this race. It is structured upon a comprehensive measure that our committee passed unanimously, on a bipartisan basis in both the 109th and 110th Congresses. Our legislation includes commonsense enhancements intended to incentivize more small businesses to participate in these vital programs. The bill would increase the size of phase I program awards from \$100,000 to \$150,000, and phase II awards from \$750,000 to \$1 million. It would also peg future award increases to inflation. These pivotal reforms represent a well-spring of indispensable technological-fuel to the small business engines that drive our Nation’s innovation.

Since the SBIR program was created in 1982, small technology firms have received more than 77,000 awards worth approximately \$24 billion. The SBIR program has tremendous job creation potential. A recent National Academy of Sciences study, which focused on firms winning phase II SBIR awards in fiscal years 1992 through 2002 found that, as a result of their SBIR award, small firms were able to hire an average of 2.4 employees, retain 2.1 more, and over time these firms, on average, each generated 30 jobs.

Our legislation would increase the SBIR allocation—currently 2.5 percent of Federal agencies’ extramural R&D funds—by 1 percent over 10 years and double the STTR allocation over 5 years to 0.6 percent. By doubling the percentage of Federal R&D dollars that the STTR program receives each year, and increasing the SBIR percentage by 1 percent over 10 years, we will infuse another \$1 billion into the small business economy. With our economy reeling, the SBIR and STTR programs are more essential than ever, if we are to capitalize on the groundbreaking capacities of our Nation’s pioneering small businesses.

While innovation in areas such as genomics, biotechnology, and nanotechnology present new opportunities, converting these ideas into marketable products involves substantial funding challenges. Many small businesses sim-

ply cannot afford the exorbitant cost of developing and bringing a product into the marketplace. In order to confront this challenge, this legislation offers a compromise solution to the venture capital issue that has recently divided members of this committee and the SBIR community. Last Congress, I worked with Senators KERRY, BOND, LIEBERMAN, COLEMAN, and others, to develop a key compromise on this issue that would permit limited venture capital investment in the SBIR program.

Our bill retains this bipartisan compromise and would allow limited involvement of firms majority-owned by venture capital companies in the SBIR program. Specifically, a maximum of 18 percent of SBIR funding at the National Institutes of Health and 8 percent at all other qualifying agencies may be directed to small firms majority-owned by venture capital companies. Our compromise was strongly supported by the stakeholder community, and is consistent with the recent findings of the National Academy of Sciences and Government Accountability Office regarding venture capital investment in SBIR awardees. Additionally, we leave in place well-established SBA “affiliation” rules designed to preserve the intent of the SBIR program by limiting participation to small businesses.

Other key provisions in this vital legislation include the reauthorization and enhancement of my SBIR Defense Commercialization Pilot Program. Senator KERRY and I created this program in the 108th Congress to encourage the award of contracts to SBIR firms. In addition, we would offer this program to all other participating agencies. The bill also would reauthorize and increase funding from \$2 million to \$5 million for the Federal and State partnership program which would allow each state—including Maine—to receive funding in the form of a grant to make available an array of services in support of the SBIR program.

Now, more than ever, we in Congress must do everything within our power to help small businesses drive the recovery of our economy. It is imperative that we reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs, particularly before the program terminates at the end of July. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this vital measure in the committee and full Senate, as we move forward to reauthorize these vital programs.

NOMINATION OF STANLEY McCHRYSTAL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I oppose the nomination of LTG Stanley McChrystal to command U.S. forces in Afghanistan for two reasons. The first relates to a classified matter about which I have serious concerns. I have conveyed those concerns in a letter to the President. The second issue is interrogation.

At his public confirmation hearing, General McChrystal responded to a question from Chairman LEVIN regarding interrogation policies that “included stress positions, the use of dogs and nudity” by stating that “[s]ome of them were in use when I took over, sir, and then, as we immediately began to reduce that.” When asked whether he was “uncomfortable with some of the techniques” in use, he replied “[w]hen I took over, I was.”

However, following the hearing, Chairman LEVIN sent General McChrystal a question for the record describing many of the 14 interrogation techniques not listed in the Army Field Manual that were authorized under General McChrystal’s command, up until May 6, 2004, when CENTCOM Commander General John Abizaid suspended the use of all such techniques. Chairman LEVIN’s question then described a request from General McChrystal, submitted 3 weeks after the suspension, to continue using a number of these techniques, including “sleep management,” “environmental manipulation,” and “control positions.” The request defined “control positions” as “requiring the detainee to stand, sit, kneel, squat, maintain sitting position with back against the wall, bend over chair, lean with head against wall, lie prone across chairs, stand with arms above head or raised to shoulders, or other normal physical training positions” and requested that “in the most exceptional circumstances, and on approval from [the commander]” interrogators be allowed to “use handcuffs to enforce the detainee’s position.”

Asked to square his public testimony with this record, General McChrystal responded that, when he took command in 2003, he reviewed the interrogation program and, in March 2004, “reduc[ed] the frequency of use of several of the techniques” by requiring high-level approval. He also looked to “increase the effectiveness of the entire process and make it more humane” but offered no specifics other than “improved facilities” and improvements in the use of other, non-“enhanced” techniques. General McChrystal then acknowledged that he personally requested approval from General Abizaid to continue using several of the techniques that had just been suspended, including “control positions.” General Abizaid rejected the use of “control positions,” and, according to the Senate Armed Services Committee report, the use of “hooding.”

I have numerous concerns, both about this history and about General McChrystal’s public testimony. I have long opposed any interrogation techniques, whether conducted by the U.S. military or the intelligence community, that are not authorized by the Army Field Manual. I am thus dismayed by General McChrystal’s personal support for the use of some of

these techniques, particularly the so-called control positions, and by his efforts to continue the techniques after they had been suspended. And, while I have no reason to believe that General McChrystal would not adhere to current law and policy, I am troubled by his failure to express any regret for his previous positions. Finally, I am concerned about General McChrystal's public testimony, which sought to convey that he was "uncomfortable" with various interrogation techniques and sought to "reduce" their use. Given the full history of his approach to interrogations, this testimony appears to be incomplete, at best.

NORTHWESTERN'S NCAA CHAMPIONS

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure and sincere pride that I congratulate the Northwestern University women's lacrosse team on winning another NCAA Championship.

As a lifelong Illinoisan and an avid sports fan, I am happy to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of these young women.

In a crowded field of worthy contenders from across the Nation, this Wildcat team rose to the occasion and claimed a fifth straight national title.

Their consistency, grit, and determination is exemplified by their perfect record for the season: 23 to 0, capped off by a resounding victory over the third-ranked North Carolina Tar Heels.

The Northwestern women's lacrosse team also consistently ranks in the top 10 to 15 percent of academic achievement in the NCAA's Annual Academic Report.

It is clear from their record that the Wildcats excelled every time they took the field, but, more importantly, they excelled in the classroom and in the community.

I am proud of this team because they recognized that "student" is supposed to come before "athlete" in the phrase "student athlete."

For many athletes, college sports have become a launching pad for fame and fortune, but on this team you may find doctors, lawyers, and maybe even a senator or two.

Although the games may not have been broadcast to a national audience or as widely covered by the media, the women's lacrosse team deserves just as much recognition as their male counterparts.

They have sacrificed sleep for early morning workouts, weekends for competition, and played a sport that practically requires the commitment of a full-time job, but all the while, they continued to attend class and maintain their studies.

College athletics require a remarkable amount of dedication, and this team deserves notable recognition even if their scores weren't reported on the nightly news or the front page of newspapers. Their demonstrated character

and sportsmanship marks them as role models for aspiring athletes throughout the State. Their athletic performance and strong record of academic achievement place them at the pinnacle of intercollegiate success. Although several players may be honored with individual awards, this national title belongs to each and every member of the team.

This victory reminds us that we have the chance to shine only with the support of our comrades, our friends, our teammates. It is through persistent and concerted effort that we reach our potential, and when we inevitably fall, it is only through the strength and grace of our friends that we can pick ourselves up and journey onward.

The teamwork displayed by these young women throughout the season, even under mounting pressure and enormous expectations, allowed them to carry the day. They have done their university, and their State, proud. We should all draw inspiration from their fine example.

With this championship, the Northwestern Wildcats have cemented their position as the top Lacrosse program in the country. They are quickly approaching the record of seven consecutive titles currently held by Maryland, and, like many Illinoisans, I can hardly wait for what will surely be an exciting season next year.

It is with great pride that Senator DURBIN and I come together to celebrate this national championship. And we are proud to offer a Senate resolution congratulating these talented athletes.

In the spirit of good sportsmanship displayed by the Northwestern women's lacrosse team throughout the season, I ask my colleagues to join with us in congratulating these student athletes on their remarkable accomplishment.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING JOSHUA FAIRLEY

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I would like to continue the efforts of Senator KAUFMAN and the Partnership for Public Service by honoring an outstanding federal employee in Mississippi.

Public servants fulfill remarkable duties in the government, and their accomplishments deserve grateful recognition.

Mr. Joshua Fairley, an employee at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, USACE-ERDC, in Vicksburg, is a distinguished public servant for his development of new technology to improve the detection accuracy of improvised explosive devices for our Armed Forces. Improvised explosive devices are commonly used in terrorist attacks and have become a principal source of fatalities for men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Fairley's new technology has resulted in a 75 percent improvement rating for detection accuracy. This Mississippian has used his intelligence to serve our country and protect our troops.

Mr. Fairley was inspired to become a Federal employee because of his desire to make a difference, and he has done so by recognizing challenges and using his skills to overcome them.

I am glad that Senator KAUFMAN has initiated this effort; our Federal employees deserve recognition for the important role they fill.

Mr. Fairley is committed to our Nation, and his contributions have made him the prime example of an outstanding Federal employee.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLUNT, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I recognize the community of Blunt, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Blunt is a rural community infused with hospitality, beauty, and an exceptional quality of life.

The city of Blunt was settled in 1884 and named after the chief engineer of the Chicago and Northwestern railway, Mr. John E. Blunt. Few early railroad towns in South Dakota were able to boast of the wide variety of early establishments, including 6 hotels, 12 grocers, 9 lumber yards, 5 saloons, and 4 bakeries.

Today, Blunt has come a long way from its days as a railroad supply center. The town still boasts a variety of businesses, including those in both the service and manufacturing sectors. The Graham Mentor Museum and the REA building are just two examples of continuous efforts to bring the community closer.

The people of Blunt celebrate this momentous occasion on the weekend of June 26-28, 2009. South Dakota's small communities are the bedrock of our economy and vital to the future of our State. It is especially because of our small communities, and the feelings of loyalty and familiarity that they engender, that I am proud to call South Dakota home. Towns like Blunt and its citizens are no different and truly know what it means to be South Dakotan. One hundred and twenty-five years after its founding, Blunt remains a vital community and a great asset to the wonderful State of South Dakota. I am proud to honor Blunt on this historic milestone.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELK POINT, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 150th anniversary of the founding of the community of Elk Point, SD. After 150 years, this historic community will have a chance to reflect on its past accomplishments and its future goals, and I congratulate this thriving community for all it has done.