

develop new products, ideas, and gain respected external validators.

H.R. 6368 also incentivizes mentorship with previous SBIR and STTR companies that have found success in the programs to share and impart that knowledge and experience.

Today's bill is endorsed by the National Defense Industrial Association, an association whose majority are small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for introducing today's bill to spur increased contracting activities in the SBIR/STTR programs, and I ask all my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, I, first of all, thank the gentlewoman, the ranking member, for her leadership on this, and Mr. ESPAILLAT, as well, and Mr. NORMAN for working together in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, the SBIR and STTR play pivotal roles in the development of new technologies while giving Federal agencies innovative and cost-effective ways to solve operational problems. They are highly popular and have helped thousands of small businesses create new technologies, commercialize their ideas, and generate new jobs.

The reforms contained in H.R. 6368 will bring more firms into the programs and make it easier for them to win contracts. This is a win-win for small businesses and the Federal Government as competition breeds innovation, and innovation leads to saving taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan and common-sense reforms of H.R. 6368, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6368, the "Encouraging Small Business Innovators Act," which encourages R&D small business set-asides, to incentivize Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) participants to serve as mentors under the Small Business Administration's mentor-protégé program.

The SBIR program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization.

Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization.

By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains en-

trepreneurial capacity as it meets its specific research and development needs.

STTR is another program that expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development (R&D) arena.

Central to the STTR program is expansion of the public/private sector partnerships to include the joint venture opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit research institutions.

The unique feature of the STTR program is the requirement for the small business to formally collaborate with a research institution in Phase I and Phase II.

STTR's most important role is to bridge the gap between performance of basic science and commercialization of resulting innovations.

As a member of Congress, I have worked to advance policies that promote business opportunities and business growth because I believe that this is at the heart of the American dream—small businesses are the backbone of the American economy.

To this end, I have authored numerous Legislative proposals empowering small businesses such as the American Rising Act and the Transitioning Heroes Act, to name a few to provide opportunities for small businesses.

I have also hosted events to create a platform for entrepreneurial and small business participants to hear from experts in the industry and to network with supplier outreach representatives from major government agencies and corporations.

By finding the right mentors like SBIR and STTR, small business owners and incubators can learn valuable tools to aid in leading small businesses to success.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to stand with me in the support of H.R. 6368.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6368, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 1551.

□ 1745

EXPANDING CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2018

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 6369) to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6369

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) **QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 31(b)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) **SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS.**—A contracting officer may award sole source contracts under this section to any qualified HUBZone small business concern, if—

"(i) the qualified HUBZone small business concern is determined to be a responsible contractor with respect to performance of such contract opportunity;

"(ii) the contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that two or more qualified HUBZone small business concerns will submit offers for the contracting opportunity;

"(iii) the anticipated award price of the contract will not exceed—

"(I) \$7,000,000, in the case of a contract opportunity assigned a standard industrial classification code for manufacturing; or

"(II) \$4,000,000, in the case of all other contract opportunities; and

"(iv) in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price."

(b) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.**—Subsection (a) of section 36 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) **SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS.**—In accordance with this section, a contracting officer may award a sole source contract to any small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans if—

"(1) such concern is determined to be a responsible contractor with respect to performance of such contract opportunity;

"(2) the contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that two or more small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans will submit offers for the contracting opportunity;

"(3) the anticipated award price of the contract will not exceed—

"(A) \$7,000,000, in the case of a contract opportunity assigned a standard industrial classification code for manufacturing; or

"(B) \$4,000,000, in the case of any other contract opportunity;

"(4) in the estimation of the contracting officer, the contract award can be made at a fair and reasonable price;

"(5) the contracting officer has notified the Administration of the intent to make such award and requested that the Administration determine the concern's eligibility for award; and

"(6) the Administration has determined that such concern is eligible for award."

(c) **CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.**—Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

"(7) **AUTHORITY FOR SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY**