



1725 I Street NW • Suite 510 • Washington, DC 20006
Tel 202-659-0599 • Fax 202-659-0709 • www.asn-online.org

August 27, 2009

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chairwoman
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu and Ranking Member Snowe,

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) is an organization composed of over 11,000 physicians and scientists committed to fighting kidney disease and bettering the lives of their current and future patients. In pursuit of this goal, we are writing to express our concern for the Senate version of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Reallocation Act (S. 1233). We urge Congress to move forward in this process by adopting the House version of this legislation (H.R. 2965), as we oppose a provision in the Senate's version (Section 103) that would increase the allocation for the SBIR program of any federal agency budget that provides over \$100 million for research from 2.5% to 3.5% over the next eleven years.

While ASN acknowledges the benefits to be gained by the contribution of small businesses in scientific research, the Senate's proposal will not benefit scientific research as a whole. As a result of the mandatory increase in the SBIR allocation proposed, peer-review research conducted by other organizations will inevitably experience detrimental funding cuts. This research is exactly the kind that ASN's members, as well as a multitude of other innovative scientists and physicians, are performing on a daily basis to improve the quality of life for all Americans. In these economically uncertain times, we do not support a proposal that would limit competition for \$1 billion of federal research money.

Health care innovation is at the forefront of society— scientific research should not be hindered, but should instead be facilitated by all possible means. We recommend that Congress works to increase support for all research rather than restrict it to one type.

We recognize and appreciate the time and effort spent on this difficult issue, but given the concerns stated above, we urge you to pass the House version of the Small Business Innovation Research Reauthorization Act of 2009 (H.R. 2965).). If you have any further questions, please contact Paul Smedberg by phone 202-416-0646 or email psmedberg@asn-online.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Coffey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the end.

American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
1725 I Street, N.W.
Suite 510
Washington, DC 20006