

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5212

To amend section 9 of the Small Business Act to permit Federal agencies to make awards to small business concerns that have received a Phase II SBIR or STTR award to provide fellowship opportunities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend section 9 of the Small Business Act to permit Federal agencies to make awards to small business concerns that have received a Phase II SBIR or STTR award to provide fellowship opportunities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “SBIR/STTR Innova-
5 tion Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SBIR AND STTR FELLOWSHIPS.**

2 Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)
3 is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the
5 following new paragraph:

6 “(5) FELLOWSHIPS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency may
8 provide grants or awards, either directly or in
9 partnership with a third party, to small busi-
10 ness concerns that have received SBIR or
11 STTR Phase II awards to provide fellowship
12 and internship opportunities at the under-
13 graduate, baccalaureate, graduate, and
14 postdoctoral levels in fields that are important
15 to such Federal agency.

16 “(B) ENHANCED OUTREACH.—Each Fed-
17 eral agency that makes an award or enters into
18 a partnership under subparagraph (A) shall
19 provide for enhanced outreach to increase the
20 participation of women, socially disadvantaged
21 individuals (as described in section 8(a)(5)),
22 and economically disadvantaged individuals (as
23 described section 8(a)(6)(A)) in the fellowship
24 and internship opportunities described under
25 subparagraph (A).

1 “(C) SUPPORT ORGANIZATION.—Each
2 Federal agency that makes an award or enters
3 into a partnership under subparagraph (A) may
4 partner with or provide grants or awards to a
5 third-party organization to support and facili-
6 tate the enhanced outreach under subparagraph
7 (B) provided that such third-party organization
8 is a nonprofit organization with relevant experi-
9 ence and demonstrated expertise in delivery of
10 services described in subparagraph (B).

11 “(D) FUNDING.—In carrying out this
12 paragraph, a Federal agency may use only the
13 following amounts:

14 “(i) With respect to a Federal agency
15 that uses the authority under subsection
16 (mm), the funds authorized under such
17 subsection.

18 “(ii) With respect a Federal agency
19 other than a Federal agency described in
20 clause (i), not more than three percent of
21 the funds required to be expended under
22 paragraph (1).”; and

23 (2) in subsection (n), by adding at the end the
24 following new paragraph:

25 “(4) FELLOWSHIPS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency may
2 provide grants or awards, either directly or in
3 partnership with a third party, to small busi-
4 ness concerns that have received SBIR or
5 STTR Phase II awards to provide fellowship
6 and internship opportunities at the under-
7 graduate, baccalaureate, graduate, and
8 postdoctoral levels in fields that are important
9 to such Federal agency.

10 “(B) ENHANCED OUTREACH.—Each Fed-
11 eral agency that makes an award or enters into
12 a partnership under subparagraph (A) shall
13 provide for enhanced outreach to increase the
14 participation of women, socially disadvantaged
15 individuals (as described in section 8(a)(5)),
16 and economically disadvantaged individuals (as
17 described section 8(a)(6)(A)) in the fellowship
18 and internship opportunities described under
19 subparagraph (A).

20 “(C) SUPPORT ORGANIZATION.—Each
21 Federal agency that makes an award or enters
22 into a partnership under subparagraph (A) may
23 partner with or provide grants or awards to a
24 third-party organization to support and facili-
25 tate the enhanced outreach under subparagraph

1 (B) provided such third-party organization is a
2 nonprofit organization with relevant experience
3 and demonstrated expertise in delivery of serv-
4 ices described in subparagraph (B).

5 “(D) FUNDING.—In carrying out this
6 paragraph, a Federal agency may use only the
7 following amounts:

8 “(i) With respect to a Federal agency
9 that uses the authority under subsection
10 (mm), the funds authorized under such
11 subsection.

12 “(ii) With respect a Federal agency
13 other than a Federal agency described in
14 clause (i), not more than three percent of
15 the funds required to be expended under
16 paragraph (1).”.

○