Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) for yielding me this time, and I also want to thank him for his help in passing this resolution, which I introduced last July.

Mr. Speaker, a good definition of character is summed up in the old saying “Character is what you do when no one is looking.”

Men and women of character are guided by basic standards of right and wrong. They do not look to others for approval or bend to peer pressure.

National polls indicate that moral concerns and family decline are some of the most important problems facing the country today. Too many of our children grow up in a culture that acknowledges no right or wrong.

Americans are concerned about the quality of their children’s education. They are also troubled about the decline in our Nation’s values and its effect on our children. Although parents should be the primary developers of character, educators play an increasingly important role. Communities across the Nation recognize that character education is an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum.

Our Nation’s teachers are aware that character education can establish standards for behavior.

President Bush has made character education an important component of his education reform bill. By allocating funds to character education, States, local education agencies, parents, and students will have an opportunity to promote character and values. This resolution will encourage schools to embrace character education. It designates the third week of October of this year and 2002 as “National Character Counts Week.”

I hope children across the Nation will participate in character-building activities in their schools. It is imperative that we teach our children the qualities that strengthen their character and make our country strong. To reap the rewards of a virtuous society, we must first sow the seeds of character when our children are young.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just reiterate that this is a good bill and ask my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just close before I yield back the remainder of my time.

In light of the recent events, it seems even more appropriate to quote Dr. Martin Luther King. Let me read his quote. “The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason and no

CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

The resolution encourages the establishment of a “Character Counts” week, a time to encourage and enable them to develop knowledge and life skills for embracing ethical and responsible behavior. I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this measure.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, “character.”

Webster’s New World Dictionary, Third college edition defines “character” as “moral strength, self-discipline, fortitude.”

The pillars which guide ethical decision-making, which make up character are: Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship.

Trustworthiness includes morality, honesty, truthfulness, sincerity, candor, loyalty and integrity.

Respect includes civility, courtesy and decency.

Being responsible means being in charge of our choices and, thus, our lives. It means being accountable for what we do and who we are.

Fairness involves issues of equality, impartiality, proportionality and openness.

Caring is ultimately about our responsibilities toward other people. A person who really cares feels an emotional response to both the pain and pleasure of others.

The concept of citizenship includes civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave as part of a community. The good citizen gives more than he or she takes.

As leaders of this great nation, especially at this time, we must be examples of strong, moral unblemished character and encourage the young people of this nation to replicate these attributes in all their ways and conduct.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further request for time, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 204.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1860) to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1860.

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 “Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001.”

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.

(a) In General.—Section 9(n)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) REQUIRED EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.—

“(A) In General.—With respect to each fiscal year through fiscal year 2009, each Federal agency that has an extramural budget that meets the requirements of this section and any policy directives and regulations issued under this section, shall expend with small business concerns not less than the percentage of that extramural budget specified in subparagraph (B), specifically in connection with STTR programs that meet the requirements of this section and any policy directives and regulations issued under this section.

“(B) EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.—The percentage of the extramural budget required to be expended by an agency in accordance with subparagraph (A) shall be—

“(i) 0.15 percent for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003; and

“(ii) 0.3 percent for fiscal year 2004 and each fiscal year thereafter.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended in subsections (b)(4) and (e)(6), by striking “pilot” each place it appears.

SEC. 3. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED PHASE II AWARDS.


17686

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

September 24, 2001
Section 9(o) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(o)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the end of the paragraph; and
(2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
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Participating agencies are directed in this bill to implement an outreach program to research institutions and small business concerns for the purpose of encouraging STTR participation in conjunction with any such outreach done for purposes of SBIR program.

The bill is important to foster the development of small high technology firms. I commend my Committee on Science, Aerospace, and Technology, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA), in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GONZALES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we stand and take the final step toward reauthorizing the Small Business Technology Transfer Program and upgrading it from its current pilot program status.

We began this initiative in 1992 with a unique goal, to help the small business and research communities work together to bring innovative new technologies to the marketplace. It is impossible to overstate the impact that technological innovation has had on the economy and on our lives. Computer and telecommunication innovation, biotechnology and chemical engineering have fueled a boom and profoundly changed the way we work and live. Some technologies were exotic or even unheard of just 10 years ago. Today, they have become commonplace.

Mr. Speaker, the Small Business Technology Transfer Program has helped to spur some of this remarkable creativity and growth. Between 1994 and 1998 alone, STTR awarded 861 Federal grants for research through 5 Federal departments and agencies. STTR has led to inventions emerging in highly evolved technologies, including advances in vaccine applications and biotechnology research.

With the passage of today's legislation, we will continue to support small technology firms across this country by extending the life of STTR through 2001 and expanding the program from its previous pilot program status.

In particular, we will expand the program's reach by increasing the percentage of Federal research grants reserved for small businesses from 0.15 to 0.30 percent, doubling the amount of research dollars going to small businesses. This will go a long way towards increasing the role small firms play in developing new technology.

In addition to increasing the number of opportunities for small enterprises, we are increasing the amount of Phase II grants from $500,000 to $750,000 so that those already successful small businesses will have an even better chance of product commercialization.

We are also directing the SBA to develop a streamlined model agreement so that small businesses can spend more time developing technology and less time on bureaucratic paperwork.

But that is not enough. The Committee on Small Business recognizes that we must do more than increase the amount of Federal and State funds available to small businesses. We must also ensure that the dollars are fairly distributed.

That is why this legislation includes provisions that will increase the amount of Phase II dollars going to small businesses in regions that have been historically undeveloped and underdeveloped.

The committee has also directed the Small Business Administration to begin tracking awards to low-income communities. This will give us a measurement of the level of support that STTR is providing to these areas.

Finally, we are redirecting the Federal and State Technological Partnership to further emphasize the importance of outreach to low-income communities in spreading and increasing the benefits of technological innovation. We created this program last year to encourage technology development in areas that had limited growth and success in the past.

An important component of this was supposed to be outreach to low-income communities. Unfortunately, the implementing regulation failed to focus on low-income communities. In consultation with the Senate, the committee changed the statutory language specifically to increase STTR and Small Business Innovation Research awards to low-income communities.

With this language to focus awards on businesses owned by women and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals within each State, as well as small businesses in regions that have been previously overlooked by STTR and SBIR awards.

I want to make it absolutely clear that outreach is a critical component to technology development. The enhancements included in this bill will begin to open access to technology for businesses located in low-income communities and other underserved regions, and we will measure the success of this outreach by tracking the number of those awards in those particular communities.

During the past decade, we saw enormous growth in small business and technological innovation. The benefits are many, but the gap between communities who benefit from the economic development of our entrepreneurs and those who are left behind is too wide. STTR is instrumental in helping more researchers and small businesses build the next new thing while at the same time bridging the digital divide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.
This program, which is the subject of this bill, stimulates technology transfer from research institutions to small businesses by awarding grants for collaborative projects between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. This award process has three phases. Phase one is a testing stage to determine the scientific, technical, and commercial merit and feasibility of a proposed R&D effort. Phase one awards are limited to $100,000 during this stage. Projects that successfully complete phase one may be further developed in phase two, with additional funding up to $500,000. Phase three is designed for final R&D efforts and for commercialization of the idea. However, no Federal STTR funding is allowed for this stage. At that point it becomes the responsibility of the company.

This program is currently funded through a set-aside of 0.15 percent of Federal R&D budgets that exceed the threshold of $1 billion. Currently, five agencies participate in STTR: Department of Defense; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Department of Health and Human Services, primarily through the National Institutes of Health; the Department of Energy; and the National Science Foundation.

The General Accounting Office evaluated STTR in 2000-2001 and found that companies receiving phase one grants felt that both the company and research counterpart contributed significantly to the expertise and implementation of the project. They reported a variety of outcomes, ranging from product sales to project discontinuation. And 99 percent of the grant recipients surveyed believed the STTR program should continue.

In addition to that, they did a survey of the companies involved to see what the effects were, and they discovered that the initial return on investment. Just the six most successful projects alone accounted for sales of $132 million. That almost covers the cost of the entire STTR program during the first few years.

In addition, the top two projects had $115 million of sales. Now, recognize, these sales go on and on for years. These are just the sales for the first year or two. So it clearly is a program that works. It is successful and does improve our economy.

This current bill, which I am offering, H.R. 1860, does several things to improve the program. First, the legislation reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2009 and raises the set-aside percentage from 0.15 percent to 0.3 percent, which will increase the annual awards by approximately $60 million overall. Second, it increases the ceiling on the phase two award from $500,000 to $750,000. This simply reflects the rising costs of doing business since the program’s inception in 1992.

Finally, H.R. 1860 will, among other things, strengthen the data collection and reporting requirements of the agencies and small businesses participating in STTR and standardize intellectual property rights agreements between the companies and the business partners. That last aspect is very important, because the participants reported a significant amount of their time, money, and effort had gone into developing the property rights agreements between themselves and the business partners. This bill standardizes that process and will save a considerable amount of time and money, particularly in attorneys’ fees and the time of the participants.

This bill is a cooperative effort between the House Committee on Science, the House Committee on Small Business and the Senate Small Business Committee. The three committees have worked in a bipartisan, bicameral effort to ensure this important program continues. In fact, the manager’s amendment reflects that cooperation by inserting the text of Senate bill 856, which is almost identical to our bill, as the manager’s amendment.

I would like to thank the leadership of these committees, Chairman Boehlert, ranking member Hall, Chairman Manzullo and ranking member Velazquez, for their efforts in bringing this bill to the floor. This is a good bill that will improve upon an already successful small business program. It will strengthen R&D partnerships between research institutions and small businesses. It will help America’s economy by encouraging new small business ventures, which are a key component of fueling further economic growth.

And it will demonstrate the importance of funding R&D efforts by bringing technology developed in research institutions into the marketplace and creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the bill.

Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Udall).

Mr. Udall of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the small business technology transfer program has been a valuable tool to promote useful technological innovation since it was first authorized in 1992. Today, we take the final step toward extending and expanding STTR for the future. I hope that, if we see the same kind of development in the next 10 years as we have seen in the past decade, many more wonders will follow to change our lives and bolster our economy, which clearly needs it at this time.

The Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Agriculture, and Technology, on which I serve, held a hearing on this program on June 20, 2001. The STTR program is designed to address the lack of capital that small business research and development firms experience when getting started. Another unique aspect of the program is that small businesses can partner for research projects with research institutions, federally funded research and development centers, or nonprofit organizations.

By supporting this legislation, we are taking a big step to strengthen and improve the STTR program and its delivery program to women-owned, minority-owned and those companies located in low-income communities. This program is a valuable tool to assist small business owners who focus on research and development initiatives.

We have expanded the STTR in a number of ways. We raised the percentage of Federal agencies’ research budgets reserved for STTR from 1.5 percent to 3 percent. We also increased the amount of phase two awards from $500,000 to $750,000 to help more innovations get to market. To help small and medium-sized institutions and small businesses, we are asking the Small Business Administration to develop a single, standardized model agreement. And we are asking SBA to make a concerted effort to reach out to underserved areas of the country with grants for those communities. We will see how well the agency does by tracking where and to whom STTR and SBIR grants are awarded. Technology can be the great economic equalizer, but the digital divide must be bridged first.

In my district in New Mexico, I have a large rural area. Issues of the digital divide are profound. In fact, one young student recently won a computer in a school contest but did not have a telephone line to hook up the computer. We need an aggressive effort at digital inclusion. The small business technology transfer program will help bridge this gap through a grant program.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Committee on Small Business for their support and hard work on this bill, which has been 9 years in the making and is needed now more than ever. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Manzullo). I know that he brings to this committee a bipartisan approach. We have been very successful at working together. I congratulate him for all his hard work and leadership on this bill.

Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The Committee on Small Business, Mr. Speaker, has always been recognized as a true model of bipartisanship. I commend the chairman of the committee, who has always preserved that tradition. I want to commend both the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for being really the guiding light in this as in many other pieces of legislation that will expand that business universe to all the small business men and women in this Nation.
H.R. 1860 today presents a greater opportunity than ever before. It is not only an expansion but it is a monitoring; and it really is an accountability tool to make sure that the legislation that we pass when it gets down on the ground, in our communities, actually is doing what it is supposed to.

Again, I comment the chairman and the ranking member to make sure that the legislation that we pass when it gets down on the ground, in our communities, actually is doing what it is supposed to.

I would suggest my colleagues join us today in passage of this fine piece of legislation.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill. We had a very interesting full committee hearing in New Mexico with regard to the Los Alamos lab in the district of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL). It became quite apparent that there has to be some way to make at least that lab come to the table and to include more local businesses and people involved in technology as part of their program. If this program is reauthorized, which I hope it will be, we will stay on top of the progress at Los Alamos and the other labs in this country to make sure the taxpayers' dollars that are being given are used wisely and that the portion that is set aside for small businesspeople is done exactly for that purpose.

I would urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of H.R. 1860, I rise in support of this important legislation to not only reauthorize, but to make permanent the Small Business Administration's Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program.

As the Ranking Democratic Member on the Committee on Small Business, I am well aware of the important role that technology plays in not only developing small businesses, but in developing the Nation's economy. The economic boom of the 1990's—the longest period of economic strength in our Nation's history—was fueled by small businesses and, especially high-tech firms. The strength of the economy, for such an unprecedented time period, was directly related to the success of the high-tech sector.

It might surprise my colleagues to know that small businesses are the leading source of innovations and that small firms produce twice as many innovations per employee as large firms. In fact, small businesses were responsible for most of the important innovations in the twentieth century, including items ranging from practical consumer products and services as over-night delivery services and quick-frozen food to high-tech items such as the personal computer and the high-resolution X-ray microscope.

The STTR Program that we are authorizing today increases small business participation in the high-tech industry. Established in 1992, the STTR Program works by allowing small businesses to partner with universities, non-profit organizations, and research institutions. These research partners bring important capabilities that small businesses might not possess on their own. The partnership submits a proposal for necessary Federal research requirements.

With the reauthorization legislation, we have retained the pilot status of the STTR Program, and have extended the Program through fiscal year 2009.

We have also taken important steps to increase the amount of Federal research that will be performed by small businesses by increasing the percentage of agency's extramural research budgets to be devoted to the STTR Program from .15 percent to .3 percent beginning in fiscal year 2004. This action doubles the amount of research that the government will be supporting.

We have increased the grant amount of Phase I awards from the current $500,000 to $750,000. This provision allows small businesses more fund with which to conduct their research; thereby increasing the likelihood that their research will result in useful items that will make it to the marketplace.

Additionally, the bill contains provisions that will assist with the assessment of the STTR Program, by requiring the collection and maintaining of pertinent data, that can later be used to evaluate the program's strengths and weaknesses.

Democratic Members included three important provisions to this reauthorization to encourage the growth of high-tech businesses. These changes include developing an STTR Program-wide model agreement, increasing awards to low-income areas, and tracking low income awards.

The partnership between small businesses and research institutions is a cornerstone of the STTR Program. The formation of these teams, is the development of an agreement outlining the rights and responsibilities of each partner, and addressing the intellectual property rights and rights to carry out follow-on research, development or commercialization, if any, that are assigned to each partner.

It has come to the Committee's attention that each participating agency has a model agreement, and many universities and non-profits have model agreements. The result is an exercise in which the small business and its research partner must come to an agreement, and have that agreement parallel the agency's agreement. The scenario often occurs wherein a small business doing work for the same agency, but with multiple research partners, must have multiple agreements, none of which are standard. Ultimately, this results in time devoted to developing partnership agreements when that time would be more effectively used to actually conduct research.

Therefore, Committee Democrats have included language that requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to go through a rule-making process to develop a single model agreement that can be adopted by all small businesses, agencies, and research partners. It is intended that this rule-making process will lead to acceptance and adoption by agencies, small business owners, research institutions, and other interested parties. The resulting model agreement shall be used by all agencies as their model agreement so that small research firms can devote their time to that which they do best—research.

During last year's reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program—the sister program to the STTR Program—important language was included to increase awards to businesses located in low-income areas. Language was included in this Fast and Small State Technology Partnership Program by House Democrats on the Committee on Small Business that allows a 50 cents private for each federal dollar for assistance directed to low-income areas—even if the state is a high-volume state as far as SBIR awards. We were concerned when this language was included, that it would not be implemented properly, and that not enough emphasis would be placed on this issue. This has become a reality in that the SBA did not include any reference to low-income areas as a priority under the FAST Program in its recent Policy Directive.

As a result of the SBA not being able to properly implement the low-income area assistance of the FAST Program in accordance with our intent, Committee Democrats included language in the STTR reauthorization legislation to require that a separate evaluation criteria for FAST proposals be developed to ensure that these proposals address how they are going to increase STTR and SBIR awards to businesses located in low-income areas.

When we consulted with the Senate Small Business Committee on this language, they expressed concern that states not having substantive amounts of low-income areas could be penalized in an evaluation criteria totally devoted to increasing opportunities in these areas. Therefore, compromise language was developed to establish an evaluation criteria to ensure that proposals address how they are going to increase STTR and SBIR awards to (1) businesses owned and controlled by women, (2) businesses owned by minorities, and (3) businesses located in areas of high unemployment and low-income—all of which have historically not participated in the SBIR and STTR Programs. It is our intent that the SBA go through a rule-making process to determine the weight that this criteria should have compared to other criteria, and to determine the standards by which these proposals shall be evaluated. It is our understanding that the term "minorities" will encompass all socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

This important change to the FAST Program will address the grim reality that of the 864 STTR awards from 1994 through 1998, only 1.5 percent went to women-owned businesses and only 2.8 percent went to minority-owned businesses.

Lastly, we included language in the STTR reauthorization to require that the SBA report to Congress, on an annual basis, on the number of SBIR and STTR awards made to small businesses located in "Historically Underutilized" Zones. These zones are specifically defined as areas of high unemployment and low income. These locations have been out of the mainstream of economic growth that the nation has experienced over the past few years, and, as such, to benefit greatly from the economy's strength the technology provides to a community. Further, tracking awards made to these businesses will assist in evaluating the success of the FAST Program.

To conclude, I join my colleagues on the Committee on Small Business who are committed to ensuring that small businesses
across the country are able to grow and expand their technology capabilities. We know that not only do small businesses, in general, employ more than half of the non-farm workforce, but small businesses account for 38 percent of the private sector workforce in the high tech industry. We believe the STTR and SBIR Programs are critical to increasing the capacity of small business technology companies, and that these Programs should continue to be monitored and evaluated, and given the appropriate resources to ensure their continued success.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I support the Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001.

The Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) was created in 1992 as an offshoot of the larger Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR). Both programs are designed to tap into the innovation of high technology small businesses and foster the commercialization of their research capabilities.

Specifically, the STTR program funds cooperative research projects between a small business and a non-profit research institution, such as a university or Federally funded laboratory. There are currently five participating agencies: Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Science Foundation. These agencies make R&D awards to the small business collaboration in the hopes of bringing new technology or technology that may have been "on the shelf" of a research institution into the marketplace.

Since its inception, the STTR program has made approximately $300 million in awards to small businesses and research institutions. As GAO recently reported, the return on our investment has been more than satisfactory. Of the 102 responses from companies participating in the STTR program from fiscal years 1995–97, $132 million in sales and $53 million in additional development funding was reported. In addition, future sales for those projects are expected to be about $500 million in dollars by December 2005. These successful results are so encouraging since most of the R&D efforts have yet to reach the stage where results are so encouraging since most of the projects are expected to be about $900 million in additional development funding was made approximately $300 million in awards to the small business collaboration in the hopes of bringing new technology or technology that may have been "on the shelf" of a research institution into the marketplace.

In December of 1999, this certification was made, and $100 million of fiscal year 1998 funds, $244 million in fiscal year 1999 funds, and $244 million in fiscal year 2000. The legislation also allowed an additional $107 million in debt relief of monies owed to the U.S. by the U.N. These payments are only made upon specified certifications by the Department of State that the U.N. has implemented reform benchmarks upon each tranche of funds. Among the certifications for release of the first $100 million authorized under the Helms-Biden legislation are stipulations that the U.N. would not implement any measure violating our Constitution, ceding sovereignty, taxing Americans, creating a standing army, charging the U.S. interest, or exercising control over any U.S. park, monument or property.

In December of 1999, this certification was made, and $100 million of fiscal year 1998 funds were paid to the U.N. This legislation would enable the Department of State to pay the second tranche of $475 million, together with the $107 million in debt relief foregone