

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel work with teachers, school leaders, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to promote student and school success;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide educational, social, emotional, and behavioral interventions and activities that support—

- (1) student learning; and
- (2) teaching;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel help to create environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to learning;

Whereas safe and supportive school environments are associated with improved academic performance;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel support—

- (1) student communication;
- (2) the development of social skills by students;
- (3) the physical wellness of students;
- (4) the physical development of students; and
- (5) the behavioral, emotional, and mental health of students; and

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel serve all students who struggle with barriers to learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 25 through April 29, 2022, as “National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week”;

(2) recognizes that specialized instructional support personnel implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes;

(3) commends—

(A) those individuals who work as specialized instructional support personnel; and

(B) the individuals and organizations that support the efforts made by specialized instructional support personnel to promote and improve the availability of specialized instructional support services;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together to raise awareness of the importance of specialized instructional support personnel in school climate and education efforts;

(5) recognizes the important role of specialized instructional support personnel in efforts to improve mental health, reduce drug use, and improve overall community safety for students; and

(6) encourages experts to share best practices so that others can replicate the success of those experts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 605—DESIGNATING APRIL 2022 AS “SECOND CHANCE MONTH”

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 605

Whereas every individual is endowed with human dignity and value;

Whereas redemption and second chances are values of the United States;

Whereas millions of citizens of the United States have a criminal record;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals return to their communities from Federal and State prisons every year;

Whereas many individuals returning from Federal and State prisons have paid their

debt for committing crimes but still face significant legal and societal barriers (referred to in this preamble as “collateral consequences”);

Whereas collateral consequences for an individual returning from a Federal or State prison are often mandatory and take effect automatically, regardless of—

- (1) whether there is a nexus between the crime and public safety;
- (2) the seriousness of the crime;
- (3) the time that has passed since the individual committed the crime; or
- (4) the efforts of the individual to make amends or earn back the trust of the public;

Whereas, for individuals returning to their communities from Federal and State prisons, gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful reentry and has been shown to reduce future criminal activity;

Whereas many individuals who have been incarcerated struggle to find employment and access capital to start a small business because of collateral consequences, which are often not directly related to the offenses the individuals committed or any proven public safety benefit;

Whereas many States have laws that prohibit an individual with a criminal record from working in certain industries or obtaining professional licenses;

Whereas, in addition to employment, education has been shown to be a significant predictor of successful reentry for individuals returning from Federal and State prisons;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record often has a lower level of educational attainment than the general population and has significant difficulty acquiring admission to, and funding for, educational programs;

Whereas an individual who has been convicted of certain crimes is often barred from receiving the financial aid necessary to acquire additional skills and knowledge;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record—

- (1) faces collateral consequences in securing a place to live; and
- (2) is often barred from seeking access to public housing;

Whereas collateral consequences prevent millions of individuals in the United States from contributing fully to their families and communities;

Whereas collateral consequences can contribute to recidivism, which increases crime and victimization and decreases public safety;

Whereas collateral consequences have particularly impacted underserved communities of color and community rates of employment, housing stability, and recidivism;

Whereas the inability to find gainful employment and other collateral consequences inhibit the economic mobility of an individual with a criminal record, which can negatively impact the well-being of the children and family of the individual for generations;

Whereas the bipartisan First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391; 132 Stat. 5194) was signed into law on December 21, 2018, to increase opportunities for individuals incarcerated in Federal prisons to participate in meaningful recidivism reduction programs and prepare for their second chances;

Whereas the programs authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199; 122 Stat. 657)—

- (1) have provided reentry services to more than 164,000 individuals in 49 States and the District of Columbia since the date of enactment of the Act; and
- (2) were reauthorized by the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391; 132 Stat. 5194);

Whereas the anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the largest program in the United States that provides outreach to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, falls on April 21; and

Whereas the designation of April as “Second Chance Month” may contribute to—

- (1) increased public awareness about—
 - (A) the impact of collateral consequences; and
 - (B) the need for closure for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt; and
- (2) opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances to those individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2022 as “Second Chance Month”;

(2) honors the work of communities, governmental institutions, nonprofit organizations, congregations, employers, and individuals to remove unnecessary legal and societal barriers that prevent individuals with criminal records from becoming productive members of society; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe “Second Chance Month” through actions and programs that—

- (A) promote awareness of those unnecessary legal and social barriers; and
- (B) provide closure for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m. Monday, May 2, and that following the prayer and pledge,

the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Frost nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators CARDIN, CASSIDY, and SULLIVAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The senior Senator from Maryland is recognized.

SBIR & STTR PROGRAMS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about two of the Federal government's most important innovation programs: the Small Business Innovation Research program, also known as the SBIR, and the Small Business Technology Transfer program, or STTR for short.

It is very appropriate we are having this discussion as we are about to go into conference in regards to legislation that affects America's competitiveness. The SBIR and the STTR program represent the best of government industry partnerships.

The programs harness the creativity and ingenuity of America's entrepreneurs and innovators, solve the most pressing public health and national security challenges of our time.

The programs are also primed to help our Nation rebuild our domestic production capacity, to reduce our reliance on foreign supply chains on critical products, and reduce costs for the American people.

I would like to remind my colleagues that fighting inflation and rebuilding our domestic manufacturing capacity are inextricably linked.

When factories close, when products sit in shipping containers in ports, when production capacity decreases due to sick employees, and when products take longer to get from the warehouse to the store, prices go up.

I have no doubt that every Senator has heard from businesses in all sectors of the economy about solving this critical issue.

According to a recent survey the National Federation of Independent Business conducted, more than half of all small business owners reported a significant impact due to supply chain disruptions.

Thirty percent reported that the disruptions were causing a "moderate im-

pact," and 14 percent reported a "mild impact." Only 5 percent of those surveyed reported that they were unaffected by the disruptions. Of the small business owners affected by disruptions, 80 percent reported that the disruptions have caused them to miss out on business opportunities.

I am very pleased to hear that President Biden announced during his State of the Union address that rebuilding America's domestic production capacity is central to his administration's plan to fight inflation and keep our Nation secure.

SBIR and STTR are two of the best tools in the Federal government's toolkit to achieve our goal. Congress created the SBIR in 1982 to increase the participation of small businesses and Federally funded research and development opportunities in areas ranging from clean energy to advanced manufacturing.

Under the program, Federal agencies that budget at least \$100 million annually for outside research must allocate a portion—3.2 percent since fiscal year 2017—to support R&D and small businesses.

There are 11 Federal agencies and departments currently in the program, including the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Education, and Health and Human Services. The program awards funds in three phases:

Phase 1 awards are worth up to \$225,000 and may be used to conduct a feasibility study to determine an idea's scientific and commercial promise.

Phase 2 awards up to \$1.5 million and may be used to conduct further R&D on the feasibility of turning an idea into a commercial product.

And phase 3 does not involve an award of funds, but denotes that an idea is ready to move from the laboratory to the marketplace.

During the commercialization phase, small businesses must raise funding from the private sector or secure non-SBIR Federal funds.

Congress created the STTR program in 1992. While the program is similar to the SBIR in structure, utilizing a similar three-phase progression, the STTR awards go to small businesses engaging in collaborative R&D with Federal labs, as well as nonprofit educational and scientific institutions.

The program requires Federal agencies and departments to spend at least \$1 billion on outside research to allocate at least 0.45 percent of the funds to STTR opportunities.

Most people may not be familiar with SBIR or STTR, but they definitely recognize the products and companies in the programs that it helped create. Sonicare Electric toothbrush, iRobot, Lasik eye surgery, all received SBIR/STTR funding when they were startups. Qualcomm, which makes computer chips, semiconductors, and other technologies critical to our national communication infrastructure, also received funding from these pro-

grams. Progeny Systems, a small business based in Manassas, VA, received more than 300 SBIR and STTR awards to conduct research over a 20-year period. Progeny's research produced technology that drastically improves the Navy's torpedo capacity. The company is now the sole supplier of torpedos to the Navy; and, yes, it is still a small business.

This is another benefit of these programs: They expand and diversify the supplier base from which the Federal agencies source goods and services, increasing competition and investment in high-growth sectors, which reduce costs over time.

On the manufacturing front, several agencies, including NASA and the Department of Defense, are currently funding research on advanced manufacturing techniques, such as 3D printing and glass that can handle temperatures as high as 900 degrees, which would revolutionize our ability to monitor nuclear reactors and power plant furnaces to prevent accidents.

Simply put, SBIR and STTR are invaluable to our national security, and we should fund these programs adequately to rebuild our domestic supply chain. Unfortunately, authority for these critical programs will expire at the end of September unless Congress acts to extend them.

The House and Senate will go to conference soon on America COMPETES Act, which includes a 5-year extension of SBIR and STTR. I urge all my colleagues, especially those who will be conferees, to support this critical provision.

The junior Senator from Iowa has submitted a motion to instruct conferees to couple this effort to extend the SBIR program and the STTR program by 5 years with authorizing language to prevent China and Russia from acquiring critical national security technology developed by the program.

I agree with the Senator that the United States needs to safeguard technologies from being compromised and stolen, and I am pleased that the House Competes Act bill includes safeguards to prevent our adversaries from affecting our innovation—not just China and Russia, but all foreign countries of concern, including Iran and North Korea. This effort builds off of section 223 of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that provides protections and requires disclosure to guard against foreign influence on Federally funded research and development.

So I will support the motion the Senator from Iowa will make; but we must recognize that if we are able to compete with China and Russia, extending the authorization for SBIR and STTR are critical. I hope she will work with me to keep this important program from shutting its doors on September 30.

I would like to add that this issue is very important to my constituents in