

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2763
OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INNOVATION**
2 **CORPS PROGRAM.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The National Science Foundation Innova-
5 tion Corps program (in this section referred to as
6 the “I-Corps program”), created administratively by
7 National Science Foundation in 2011 and statutorily
8 authorized in the American Innovation and Competi-
9 tiveness Act, has succeeded in increasing the com-
10 mercialization of government funded research.

11 (2) I-Corps provides valuable entrepreneurial
12 education to graduate students and postdoctoral fel-
13 lows, providing formal training for scientists and en-
14 gineers to pursue careers in business, an increas-
15 ingly common path for advanced degree holders.

16 (3) The current I-Corps Teams Program is suc-
17 cessful in part due to its focus on providing the spe-
18 cific types of support and mentoring entrepreneurs
19 need based on the early stage of their companies,

1 however this support is not available to entre-
2 preneurs at later stages.

3 (4) The I-Corps Program's success in the early
4 stages of the innovation continuum should be ex-
5 panded to offer training to small businesses through-
6 out all government funded stages of research and
7 development.

8 (5) Existing business accelerators and univer-
9 sity technology transfer programs provide an excel-
10 lent template for how to train and support early-
11 and mid-stage companies in achieving growth, scale,
12 and market entry.

13 (b) I-CORPS PROGRAM TRAINING FOR SBIR AND
14 STTR PARTICIPANTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
16 Science Foundation (in this section referred to as
17 the “Director”), in consultation with other Federal
18 agencies required to carry out SBIR or STTR pro-
19 grams under section 9 of the Small Business Act, I-
20 Corps regional nodes, universities, and public and
21 private entities engaged in technology transfer or
22 commercialization of technologies, shall develop re-
23 sources, to include model curriculum, training mate-
24 rials, and best practices, to support two entrepre-
25 neurial training programs: one program to provide

1 training for small business concerns participating in
2 phase I of an SBIR or STTR program (in this sec-
3 tion referred to as “I-Corps Phase I”) and one pro-
4 gram to provide training for small business concerns
5 participating in phase II of an SBIR or STTR pro-
6 gram (in this section referred to as “I-Corps Phase
7 II”).

8 (2) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES.—The
9 resources described in paragraph (1) shall be made
10 available to the public at no cost on the public Inter-
11 net website of the National Science Foundation.

12 (c) I-CORPS TRAINING SITES.—

13 (1) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—The Director shall
14 develop and maintain eligibility criteria for programs
15 to become accredited training sites to provide train-
16 ing to small business concerns under the I-Corps
17 Phase I and Phase II programs using the resources,
18 curriculum, materials, and best practices developed
19 under subsection (b)(1). Programs eligible to apply
20 for such accreditation shall include those operated
21 by universities, State and local governments, non-
22 profit organizations, and public-private partnerships.

23 (2) REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES TO
24 PROVIDE TRAINING.—Each Federal agency with an
25 extramural budget for research or research and de-

1 velopment in excess of \$100,000,000 shall make
2 available to small business concerns participating in
3 the agency's SBIR and, if applicable, STTR pro-
4 gram, training from accredited I-Corps Phase I and
5 Phase II training sites.

6 (d) DISCRETIONARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
7 Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall
8 ensure that the I-Corps program is designated as a vendor
9 eligible to provide small business concerns engaged in
10 SBIR or STTR projects with technical assistance services
11 under section 9(q) of the Small Business Act.

12 (e) REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Each I-
13 Corps regional node shall become an accredited I-Corps
14 Phase I and Phase II training site and serve as a regional
15 center of excellence, continuously improving and maintain-
16 ing the curriculum over time, and providing support to
17 other organizations seeking to become accredited I-Corps
18 training sites as provided in subsection (e)(1).

19 (f) GAO EVALUATION.—The Comptroller General of
20 the United States shall commence an evaluation of the I-
21 Corps program at all phases, including Phase 0. Such
22 evaluation shall include—

23 (1) an assessment of any effect of the I-Corps
24 program on the commercialization of federally fund-
25 ed research and development;

1 (2) any such effect on the higher education sys-
2 tem; and

3 (3) any such effect on regional economies and
4 the national economy.

