

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR
EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

March 12, 2013

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee, my name is Barbara Ann Foster, 31 Rossie St., Mystic, CT 06355-1911 and I support HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT.

- After retiring from my position as Senior Scientist at Pfizer, Inc. I helped establish and worked for Sarataun, LLC, a cancer drug discovery start-up company in New London, CT that received funding from the National Institutes of Health from 2010-2012. We had gone through a difficult, unsuccessful period of applying for funding from the State of Connecticut. Fortunately we found affordable space in a laboratory facility that was developed by Jim O'Malley of Myometrics LLC in New London, CT, as there really was a shortage of suitable specialized biological laboratory space in this region at that time. We were visited by many scientists for advice on finding both space and funding and many were looking for positions within our companies. We were not in a hiring position that early in our development but planned to increase our payroll once we had our first marketable product and/or enough funding to expand our research.
- I have seen firsthand the unique opportunity and real need to capitalize on the density of talent and infrastructure that exists in southeastern Connecticut.
- The Pfizer layoffs left many scientists in southeastern Connecticut under employed or working across state lines in RI and MA or further yet. The hardship this causes families is immeasurable. In addition, the lack of local positions will cause our new college graduates to look outside our region for employment, further weakening our economy.
- It is unconscionable for us to stand back and allow the exodus of hordes of highly trained talent with degrees from our Ivy League universities. Despite our huge talent pool, the southeastern region of Connecticut has not

benefited from the first five investments or the Biosciences Connecticut investments that have included out of state companies such as Jackson Labs, Durata and Synbody although this region has a rich history of innovation in bioscience. Distant commutes should not be required when we we have our own critical mass of talent that already lives here.

- The southeastern region of Connecticut lacks a focal point or office of innovation for those seeking to start a new venture.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB 5460, HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT.