TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
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Daniel Fasulo

Pattern Genomics

Governors Bill 838

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION

I am writing to you as Founder and President of Pattern Genomics, a Connecticut-based biotechnology company. I appreciate the opportunity to offer the following letter in **SUPPORT of SB 838 An Act Establishing a Fund for Bioscience Innovation.**

It is well known that the United States faces an aging population that will increase the demand for medical technologies and services, while the costs of healthcare also continue to rise. These trends will produce strong demand for biomedical innovation that improves patient outcomes while bringing costs under control, and industries that address these demands will almost certainly experience strong growth. Because addressing these challenges requires sophisticated new technology, growth of these industries will create relatively high-wage jobs for skilled employees.

Although known for its traditional large pharmaceutical presence, Connecticut recently has had difficulty in attracting and retaining biomedical and pharmaceutical companies. Other states such as Maryland, Texas, and California are perceived as the centers of biomedical innovation. But perhaps the biggest direct obstacles are the regional competition from Massachusetts, which vies with California as boasting the biggest biotechnology industry hub in the country, and New York, which has recently kicked off a major new initiative in genomics in New York City. In my time working in the biotech industry in Connecticut, I have witnessed many colleagues leaving the state for these other destinations and citing lack of local opportunity as the reason.

As a young and small bioinformatics start-up, Pattern Genomics has already benefitted from working with CT Innovations. But we still face challenges that could be partially addressed with the solutions in SB 838. We have difficulty finding affordable, nearby space that is oriented towards our industry and contains peer companies. We have difficulty finding local talent, forcing us to rely too much on out-of-state advisors and contractors. Additional funding would allow us to grow our business more rapidly, but even more importantly, create a more conducive ecosystem for companies such as mine. Therefore I respectfully request the Committee's support for this very important bill.