



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Testimony to the Commerce Committee

February 28, 2013

Governor Dannel P. Malloy

Testimony Regarding Governor's Bill SB 838

An Act Establishing a Fund for Bioscience Innovation

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, I am writing to express my full support of Governor's Bill SB 838, An Act Establishing a Fund for Bioscience Innovation. Passage of this legislation will help continue the cultivation and continued development of the state's bioscience and pharmaceutical presence in all aspects, ranging from our small and large research institutions, to entrepreneurial start-ups, hospitals, and companies.

Analysis from industry trends in the previous ten years, showed first hand, that Connecticut was not only losing our stance as a national and world leader in bioscience development, but also that we needed to take drastic and immediate actions to right the curve. Employment numbers showed that while bioscience employment grew 7% nationwide, in Connecticut it declined more than 14%.

Along with the employment numbers in the industry, our standing in receiving competitive National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding left us behind our neighboring states, as we ranked 15th overall, with Massachusetts and New York ranking 2nd and 3rd respectively. Studies have shown that for every \$1 of NIH projects create \$3.20 of economic impact, and the dividends from these opportunities are staying in states willing to make the long term investments in sustained market growth to increase density and a critical mass for a sustainable future.

In working with the Commerce Committee and the rest of the Connecticut General Assembly, my Administration made the commitment to right the direction of our state and re-energize our Bioscience Industry through strategic investments to attract and retain firms like Jackson Labs and Alexion, and provide support to our growing base of college and universities, research institutions and their growing talent base.

The legislation under consideration will build upon our previous investments and allocate \$200 million over the next 10 years to create a bioscience fund that will continue our strategic vision in support of spurring innovation and create high value job growth. The fund will be

administered by Connecticut Innovations under the oversight and strategic guidance of an Advisory Board consisting of leaders across the spectrum of healthcare and bioscience. Investments will be rigorously vetted to promote job and revenue generators such as start-ups, proof of concept, commercialization and innovation of discoveries. In addition, the fund will supplement funding opportunities with NIH to help make Connecticut firms and applications competitive with its counterparts throughout the nation.

The return on investment for the state will lead to economic value, greater diversity within the industry, developments of higher density research and development clusters. The fund will support the industry throughout the state.

Connecticut is well positioned for growth, particularly in pharma and medical devices, and I look forward to working with the legislature to continue on the path to supporting the partnerships and collaborations in bioscience to the greater benefit of our state.

Thank you, and ask for your support of SB 838, An Act Establishing a Fund for Bioscience Innovation.