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# BEACON

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE & CONSORTIUM

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**Submitted Testimony before Commerce Committee  
In Support of Governor's Bill S.B. 838  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION  
Thursday, February 28, 2013**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Joseph Bronzino and I am the President and Founder of the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium (BEACON) located in Hartford, CT. We are a trade association for the medical device and medical device manufacturing industry. I am writing today to testify in support of Governor's Bill S.B. 838: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION.

As a result of the increasing national demand for new devices to assist in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions coupled with an increase in global demand – led by an expanding global population, increasing global wealth, increasing access to health care and an aging population in leading developed nations – it is anticipated that the growth of the advanced medical technology industry will continue. (Battelle, 2012) The demand and need for innovative medical devices are such that the medical device industry will likely experience demand increases for the foreseeable future.

Furthermore, modern scientific and technological advancements show promise for further advancing U.S. medical technology development along enhanced and novel pathways. U.S. investment in expanding fields (such as nanotechnology, tissue-engineering, genomics, materials science and imaging) promise new and improved technologies for disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The advanced medical technology industry in the U.S. is anticipated to be at the forefront in translating scientific and technological advancements into new tools and products to enhance health and as platforms for ongoing national economic growth.

For these opportunities to be realized, however, advanced medical technology companies need to operate in a business environment that encourages continued R&D investment and facilities profitable business operations (generating profits for reinvestment in the innovation cycle). S.B. 838 satisfies this goal.

This legislation would significantly enhance the efforts of biomedical engineering professionals to innovate, develop and commercialize new medical technology including medical devices and diagnostics. The ultimate result of this effort will be the creation of new companies and jobs in Connecticut.

Right now in Connecticut there are approximately 200 medical device and medical device manufacturing companies which employ 7,000+ individuals (Furchtgott and Furchtgott-Roth, 2011). As a result, it is presently 18<sup>th</sup> on the national list of employees in this industry. And yet Connecticut, with its academic and medical institutions, still offers great potential to grow this industry in the state. This legislation will provide the means to achieve this goal.

Furthermore, our organization, the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium (BEACON) can assist in this process. We would like to be able to participate in the success of this legislation by being appointed to the Bioscience Innovation Advisory Committee where we bring the knowledge and experience of the medical device industry to the whole group.

In addition, as a non-profit trade association, BEACON, consists of academic (including UConn) and medical institutions (including Hartford Hospital) as well as corporations (including Covidien) dedicated to the development and commercialization of new medical technology. We offer the following proposals:

**(1) Development of a Medical Device Supplier Directory**

A significant number of medical device and medical device manufacturing companies are located in the state of Connecticut. However, no one is certain about where these companies are located, the number of employees or their capabilities. This lack of information has hindered the state in their ability to attract other companies to the state as well as the state's ability to assist medical device companies in the state to expand and grow. **This proposal addresses the need to attract and retain business under the bioscience umbrella.**

**(2) Update the 2004 Report on the Medical Device Industry**

In 2004 BEACON published a report on the "Potential for Growth: the Medical Device Industry in Southern New England's I-91 Corridor." It can be read at: [http://www.beaconalliance.org/pdfs/BEACON\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.beaconalliance.org/pdfs/BEACON_Report_FINAL.pdf) This report concluded that there is a concentrated medical device and supply manufacturing industry along the Connecticut-Massachusetts I-91 corridor. Moreover, the region possesses sufficient biomedical and scientific research resources and precision manufacturing capabilities to support expansion of the medical device and supply manufacturing industry. With the recent emphasis on job creation, it is critical that we reassess the status of the medical device industry and its potential for growth along the I-91 Corridor. **This proposal meets the need to develop an economic development strategy for the medical device industry in the state of Connecticut.**

**(3) Enhance the Collaboration between Clinical Researchers and Biomedical Engineering Faculty and Students (called the BEACON Link Process)**

There are a significant number of clinicians at hospitals in the state of Connecticut, especially in the regions of greater Hartford and New Haven interested in clinical research. Although they have specific ideas related to the development and utilization of a new medical device, procedure or algorithm, they often do not have the time to carry out the required research effort. Therefore, the availability of skilled labor to assist them in the actual conduct of specific research protocols would be extremely beneficial. On the other hand, there are a significant number of Biomedical Engineering (BME) undergraduate students at Trinity College, University of Hartford, University of Connecticut and Yale University looking for appropriate research projects that they can engage in to satisfy the requirements for a senior thesis or Master's Degree project. However, they are presently unaware of the possible clinical research projects of interest to physicians at local hospitals. Therefore, the development of an appropriate process to inform BME students about on-going clinical research efforts would enable them to expand their horizon. BEACON proposes to work with clinicians to create a list of potential research projects, inform BME students of these research opportunities during the spring semester of the student's Junior year and match up BME faculty and students to work with clinicians. **This proposal meets the need to enhance innovation in Biomedical Engineering in the state under the Next Generation of Connecticut Initiative.**

*Therefore, we urge the committee to support Governor's Bill S.B. 838 so we can assure that innovation in new medical technology thrives in the State of Connecticut.*