

***TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SENATE BILL 974  
AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR  
BIOMEDICAL DEVICE MANUFACTURING***

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **Senate Bill 974 – An Act Concerning Workforce Development for Biomedical Device Manufacturing**.

Covidien is a global healthcare products company that manufactures and distributes a diverse range of industry-leading product lines in three business segments: Medical Devices; Pharmaceuticals; and Medical Supplies. We are Connecticut's largest device manufacturer, employing approximately 3,500 people in Connecticut. Covidien's Surgical Solutions group's global headquarters is located in New Haven, Connecticut and R&D and Manufacturing facilities in North Haven, Connecticut. The products that are manufactured in North Haven are industry-leading technologies that include the latest advancements in medical devices.

Covidien is also a member of Beacon, the trade association that represents the medical device industry which represents many members that manufacture devices here in Connecticut.

Senate Bill 974 would require the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to study issues concerning the biomedical industry in order to better understand and provide support of our industry's workforce needs. Covidien supports initiatives that seek to further enhance and build on Connecticut's bioscience industry, creating sustainability and growth. Innovation is essential to the vitality of the bioscience industry and serves as a critical driver in the state's economy. Connecticut is 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation for medical device employment and having this report will substantiate the need for more state investment in the industry, including identifying ways to create incentives for public-private partnerships, for partnerships between corporations and non-profits/universities, and between large and small businesses. These strategic alliances will fuel the fire that is Connecticut's bioscience innovation hub. By enhancing this sector, other bioscience industries will be attracted to further develop the local industry. Covidien and its suppliers make up the core of an important medical device hub in the state of Connecticut which will undoubtedly be further enhanced by the



entrance of Covidien's competitors, suppliers, vendors, workforce and others who decide to invest, invent and flourish in Connecticut. This bill will provide an opportunity for lawmakers and regulatory authorities to better understand the needs of the bioscience and manufacturing industry and will better equip them to make key decisions that will help the industry to grow. Covidien encourages the support and passage of SB 974.