



BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE & CONSORTIUM

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**Submitted Testimony before Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement
In Support of Raised Bill No. 974
AAC Workforce Development for Biomedical Device Manufacturing
Tuesday, March 19, 2013**

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, my name is Joseph Bronzino and I am the President and Founder of the Biomedical Engineering and Alliance 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 Raised Bill No. 974, AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR BIOMEDICAL DEVICE MANUFACTURING.

There are more than 7,000 employees in the medical device and medical device manufacturing industry in the State of Connecticut. According to the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) in Washington, DC, this ranks our state as 19th largest in employment of medical technology. Of those 7,000 there are approximately 150 manufacturers in the state that are engaged in the precision manufacturing of medical devices, among other products, and for this reason BEACON is pleased that the state of Connecticut is interested in doing a study of the biomedical industry in order to identify the needs of the manufacturers to continue to grow in workforce and product production.

BEACON's study in 2004 of the biomedical device and manufacturing industry along the I-91 Corridor showed a vibrant supply chain of precision and component manufacturers whose largest customers are Covidien, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, etc. As advances in manufacturing technology influence the kinds of medical devices that ultimately find their way in to the product pipeline, it is very important to know what companies are producing and how they can grow their production thereby increasing jobs in the state.

As well we applaud the legislature's support of creating manufacturing training centers, similar to the one at Asnuntuck Community College, at three other community colleges that will provide a pipeline of employees for this growing industry in the coming years.

For these reasons BEACON not only supports Raised Bill 974, it is ready to assist in the development of a Medical Device and Supplier Directory for the State of Connecticut. We hope the Committee will send this bill favorably to the Senate for action.

