

April 29, 2019

The Honorable Paul Feeney
Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
State House
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Tackey Chan
House Chair
Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairmen Feeney and Chan:

On behalf of MassBio and our 1,100+ members, I write in favor of Senate Bill 159, filed by Senator Lesser, and House Bill 229, filed by Representative Ehrlich, *An Act to protect innovation and entrepreneurship in the Commonwealth*. With the inclusion of Section 2 (d) (attached), MassBio is supportive of both bills.

MassBio represents a wide-range of member organizations, including biotech companies, teaching hospitals, and academic institutions, the majority of which are directly engaged in cutting-edge research, development, and manufacturing of innovative products that improve the lives of sick people around the world.

Robust patent protection is indispensable to successful licensing of discoveries from medical research institutions such as our world-leading universities, teaching hospitals, and research institutions. Patent protection of their discoveries forms the foundation for the potential commercialization of therapies and treatments stemming from their research. The inclusion of Section 2 (d) is crucial to ensuring that the "bench to bedside" pipeline that drives the Commonwealth's number one life sciences sector remains protected from any unintended consequences of patent reform.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I look forward to working with you and other stakeholders to enact public policy that will improve and preserve patient care in Massachusetts. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Coughlin
President & CEO

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure



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