

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Barry R. Finegold, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Economic Development and
Emerging Technologies
State House, Room 511-A
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jerald A. Parisella, House Chair
Joint Committee on Economic Development and
Emerging Technologies
State House, Room 42
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio) Statement in Support of the Life Sciences Initiative 3.0 Reauthorization

Chair Finegold, Chair Parisella and Members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for your hard work and dedication as Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. On behalf of the over 1,600 members of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio), we write in support of the third authorization of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Initiative at \$1 billion over the next ten years, as included within Governor Healey's H.4459, *relative to strengthening Massachusetts' economic leadership*.

MassBio's members are dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing disease through transformative science and cutting-edge technologies right here in Massachusetts, making us the global epicenter of life sciences innovation. As you know, however, this success did not happen accidentally. Although Massachusetts' unique combination of leading hospitals, research universities, and academic medical centers naturally created conditions for the life sciences to find footing, the Commonwealth did not take the international lead in the life sciences until government became a true partner, as best exemplified by the Life Sciences Initiative.

The original Initiative, signed into law in June 2008, introduced a sweeping package of infrastructure improvements, early stage investments, and tax incentives to effectuate job growth and secure the Commonwealth's position as a leading life sciences state through the creation of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC). Over 15 years later, this original investment and its first reauthorization in 2018 have proven to be an unqualified success for both the competitiveness of the state economy and the innumerable patients benefiting from innovative therapies worldwide.

Biopharma employment has grown 110% since the first inception of the Life Sciences Initiative. More recently, according to [MassBio's 2023 Industry Snapshot](#), the biopharma research and development workforce in Massachusetts experienced year-over-year growth of 8.5%, outpacing California and Pennsylvania (6.8%) as well as New Jersey (1.9%); and employment in the Massachusetts biomanufacturing space rose 6.3%, higher than competitor states like New Jersey (5.8%), Maryland (4.6%), and North Carolina (1.8%). Further, Massachusetts' growth is not happening in Middlesex

County or Cambridge alone, but in Suffolk County (+29.1%) and Worcester County (+18.4%) as well. Despite the perceived industry downturn, the Commonwealth has added over 3,000 biopharma jobs through Q3 of 2023.

Given the Life Sciences Initiative's proven track record of success, MassBio urges you to retain Governor Healey's third iteration of the Initiative at a \$1 billion investment over the next ten years. Of this \$1 billion, \$500 million will go toward capital investments through the MLSC, with new themes encouraging cross-sector collaboration. \$350 million will fund the Life Sciences Tax Incentive Program – all of which include clawback mechanisms for failed commitments and have already proven successful in incentivizing the creation of industry jobs and attracting and retaining companies in Massachusetts. And the final \$150 million is secured for operating resources to further the state's commitment to the sector through workforce training funds, potential internship programs, and funding for early-stage companies in the form of grants or loans.

As the Committee and the Legislature seek to bolster Massachusetts' economic capabilities through a series of strategic industry investments through this session's Economic Development Bond Bill, we hope you will see fit to retain the Administration's \$1 billion investment to lengthen Massachusetts' international lead in a cornerstone industry committed to securing groundbreaking therapies and putting patients first.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of the matter before you and for the opportunity to provide MassBio's perspective. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact MassBio President and CEO, Kendalle Burlin O'Connell directly at (617) 674 5100 or kendalle.oconnell@massbio.org.

Sincerely,



Kendalle Burlin O'Connell
CEO and President
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio)