



March 20, 2009

Dear Maryland House Congressional Delegation Members:

The Tech Council of Maryland (TCM), a non-profit membership organization with more than 500 tech and biotech companies employing more than 200,00 people in Maryland and the region, is writing to request your co-sponsorship of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo's (D-CA), *Pathway for Biosimilars Act*, which creates a regulatory approval pathway for biosimilars.

TCM believes this legislation strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring access to safe, affordable treatments for patients with life threatening diseases while maintaining adequate protections for biotechnology innovators to foster continued advancement in the life sciences sector.

Specifically, the *Pathway for Biosimilars Act* incorporates four key principles important to TCM:


- A sufficient period of data exclusivity that will encourage the investment necessary to support new product discovery and development;
- A determination that biosimilars reflect the purity, potency and safety of innovator biologics as proven through human clinical trials and post-market surveillance;
- A robust regulatory review process; and
- Appropriate mechanisms for the resolution of patent-related disputes.

Maryland has become a worldwide leader in biomedical research as well as a home to more than 370 bioscience companies. Maryland ranks second per capita in federal research and development obligations and invests more than \$450 million in the bioscience infrastructure. Additionally, Governor Martin O'Malley recently unveiled the BIO 2020 Initiative under which the State of Maryland will invest \$1.3 billion in our bioscience industry over the next 10 years – the largest per capita investment in the biosciences made by any state in the country.

A responsible pathway for biosimilars will help maintain Maryland's leadership role in scientific innovation and grow its leadership role in the delivery of lifesaving therapies.

For all these reasons, TCM respectfully requests your co-sponsorship of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo's the *Pathway for Biosimilars Act*. TCM thanks you for your strong support of the tech and biotech industry as economic drivers of the state and we look forward to continuing to work closely on behalf of Maryland's life sciences community.

Sincerely,

  
Richard A. Zakour, PhD  
Executive Director, MdBio Division