



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Robert Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am writing today to ask you to please consider the importance of the bioscience industry to the economy of Pennsylvania when the Senate considers the creation of an approval pathway for follow-on biologics.

As you know, Pennsylvania is a national leader in biosciences and home to premier universities, hospitals, and other bioscience research institutions. Last year, *Business Facilities* magazine ranked Pennsylvania first in "Overall Biotechnology Strength."

However, this did not happen by accident. Over the past several years, the state has made a substantial commitment to growing this industry. Our investment in initiatives including the Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement, or CURE, grant program; the Life Sciences Greenhouse Initiative, the Ben Franklin Technology Partners, Keystone Innovation Zones, and the Venture Capital Guarantee Program are paying dividends.

Today, Pennsylvania is a top employer in bioscience industries, a leading innovator in bioscience-related patents and a nationally ranked investor in academic R&D and recipient of federal research grants. The Commonwealth ranks 5th nationally in bioscience R&D expenditures, 4th in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, and 4th in bioscience venture capital investments.

In order for the industry to continue to grow, it is critical the federal government create a regulatory pathway that ensures patient safety and affordability while continuing to encourage innovation by protecting the investments – both public and private – that have made Pennsylvania a national leader in biosciences.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward G. Rendell".

Edward G. Rendell
Governor