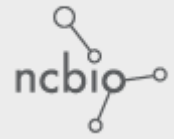




connections newsletter SPECIAL EDITION



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UPDATE

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NCBIO: SPECIAL EDITION

- STATE HOUSE BUDGET SUPPORTS LIFE SCIENCES
- LIFE SCIENCE CAUCUS MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR

////////// SPECIAL EDITION //////////

STATE HOUSE BUDGET SUPPORTS LIFE SCIENCES



The North Carolina State House of Representatives has adopted budget legislation that would fully fund the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, provide sales tax relief for small research companies and restore funding for the BTEC Biomanufacturing training center at North Carolina State University. The House budget would also restore the state Commerce Department's Office of Science and Technology and that Office's matching grant program for SBIR awards.

Biotechnology Center – The House budget effort, led by Senior House Appropriations Committee Chairman, [Rep. Nelson Dollar](#) (R-Wake) would restore a \$700,000 cut proposed by the State Senate for the Biotechnology Center. It would also eliminate new Senate-initiated restrictions on the Center's finances, including a 1 to 4 matching requirement for state funds, a 10% cap on Center administrative costs, and a requirement that at least 75% of the Center's awards be in the form of loans. Center officials had said the restrictions would hamstring the organization, limiting its ability to launch new initiatives in precision medicine, agricultural biotechnology, and defense-related life science technologies.

Thank Legislators

NCBIO thanks all the legislators who worked on the House budget and to show your appreciation for the work of these lawmakers, click on the name under the photos and send an email.

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(L-R) [Rep. Nelson Dollar](#) (R-Wake), [Rep. Jason Saine](#) (R-Lincoln),
[Rep. Bill Brawley](#) (R-Mecklenburg)

Small R&D Business Tax Relief – The House budget also includes a new sales tax refund for R&D companies. The provision allows companies that (1) primarily engaged in R&D, (2) with less than 200 employees, (3) \$5 million in annual receipts, and (4) spending more than the greater of \$10,000 or 3% of annual receipts to, claim a refund of up to \$20,000 in sales tax paid on R&D supplies. In economically distressed counties, companies would be eligible to claim up to \$20,000 in either sales tax paid on R&D supplies, or 50% of the state share (4.75%) of sales tax paid on all of the company’s purchases. Refunds would be subject to a statewide cap of \$15M. If total claims from all businesses exceed the cap, refunds to all businesses would be prorated equally to bring total refunds within the cap. The goal of the refund package is to not only reward start-up companies engaged in substantial R&D, but to encourage R&D in rural areas as well. Thanks to [Representative Jason Saine](#) (Senior Chairman, House Finance Committee), [Representative Bill Brawley](#) (Senior Chairman, House Finance Committee) for their work on this proposal.



[Rep. Holly Grange](#)
(R-New Hanover)

Funding for Biomanufacturing Worker Training -- Thanks to an amendment offered by [Representative Holly Grange](#) (R-New Hanover) , the House budget includes \$500,000 in additional funding for the Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC) at North Carolina State University. The money would fund additional adjunct faculty and supplies for the Center – allowing permanent Center faculty to focus more on teaching engineering and other undergraduate students with interest in the Biomanufacturing industry. A recent survey by NCBIO shows that North Carolina biomanufacturing companies will create more than 1500 new jobs during the next two to three years. Many of these jobs are expected to be in engineering and similar disciplines.

SBIR Matching Funds – The House reversed Senate budget provisions that eliminated all funding for the State’s Office of Science, Technology and Innovation (OSTI), as well as the Office’s matching grants program for North Carolina SBIR and STTR. Funding for OSTI was completely restored. However, monies for the matching grants were reduced from \$3.5M in 2016-17 to \$1M in 2017-18. NCBIO is working with the OSTI and its parent agency, the North Carolina Department of Commerce to get funding funding for the matching grant fund restored to at least \$3M.

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LIFE SCIENCE CAUCUS MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR

The Legislative Joint Life Science Caucus launched by interested legislators with the help of NCBIO and PhRMA has more than doubled the pace of its original schedule of meetings – now meeting twice monthly -- and attracted more than 30 legislators since its formation in March.



(L-R) [Senator Tamara Barringer](#) (R-Cary), [Senator Angela Bryant](#) (D-Rocky Mount), [Rep. Susan Martin](#) (R-Wilson), and [Rep. Ed Hanes](#) (R-Winston-Salem)

NCBIO is pleased to have formed solid working relationships with all four Caucus chairs – [Senator Tamara Barringer](#) (R-Cary), [Senator Angela Bryant](#) (D-Rocky Mount), [Representative Susan Martin](#) (R-Wilson), and [Representative Ed Hanes](#) (R-Winston-Salem).

To date, the Caucus has received briefings on the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, a national value of medicines campaign produced by PhRMA, North Carolina’s clinical research industry, and university collaborations in the life sciences. Caucus members also receive a briefing on NCBIO’s legislative agenda at each meeting and spend time meeting privately to discuss Caucus direction and objectives.

Caucus members have been strong advocates for key elements of NCBIO’s life science agenda, especially the Organization’s effort to secure additional funding for the Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center at North Carolina State University, which was accomplished through a committee amendment offered by Caucus member Holly Grange (R-Wilmington).

NCBIO is now working with Caucus leaders and PhRMA to arrange a series of facility tours and other meetings for the Caucus during the upcoming interim between the 2017 and 2018 sessions of the Assembly. NCBIO members interested in hosting Caucus meetings should contact Laura Gunter at lgunter@ncbioscience.net.

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