

## **2016 State Legislative Agenda**

### **I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAX REFORM**

Preserve existing tax exemptions and economic development incentives related to life sciences companies and organizations. Enact new tax policies and incentives to spur company and capital formation, and job growth.

Promote tax incentives to support emerging technology companies, including but not limited R&D tax credits to offset losses and tax exemptions on research equipment and manufacturing.

Fund Invest Georgia to encourage equity investment in Georgia bioscience and high technology companies.

Create matching grant program for recipients of National Institutes of Health SBIR (Small Business Innovative Research) and STTR (Small Business Technology Transfer) grants.

### **II. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

Maintain FY 2016-17 funding levels for college and university life sciences-related research through allocations to the Georgia Research Alliance and the University System of Georgia.

### **III. PATIENT ACCESS**

Ensure patients' access to innovative therapies in any modifications to commercial health insurance plans and the State's Medicaid and state employee health plans. Monitor Medicaid program and oppose reductions in state funding.

Assist healthcare providers in their efforts to improve patient outcomes.

Support modifications to commercial health insurance, Medicaid, and state employee health plans, which promote patient access to adequate provider networks and enhance plan transparency.

### **IV. REGENERATIVE AND REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE**

Georgia should support the federal regulations governing research and technology applications in regenerative and reproductive medicine.

### **V. STEM EDUCATION STANDARDS**

Encourage education that enhances economic development and competitiveness, specifically in the life sciences arena. Improve math standards and support Next Generation Science Standards to advance the states' employment pool and close the skills gap in Georgia's workforce.