



2018 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

Invest in Biomedical Research

The goal is to seed research with potential to lead to breakthrough treatments and expand the industry and Florida's economy. BioFlorida encourages the funding of research at Florida's Centers of Excellence including state research universities and our independent research institutes through the following initiatives:

- **Support the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and Bill Bankhead and David Coley Cancer Research Program:** maintain current funding from cigarette sales surcharge to fund biomedical research and drug discovery.
- **Support Legislation Regarding Alzheimer's Research and Care:** Encourage increased funding for the Ed & Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program to make Florida a leader in Alzheimer's research and care.
- **Increase funding for cancer-related research, patient care, and medical education in Florida:** to enhance the quality and competitiveness of cancer care in this state, further a statewide biomedical research strategy directly responsive to the health needs of Florida's citizens, and capitalize on the potential educational opportunities available to Florida's students.
- **Support for New Drug Discovery and Translational Research:** Encourage the discovery and development of therapeutics to strengthen and expand the intellectual property portfolio of our universities and independent research institutes.

2018 Results: BioFlorida supports an increase in biomedical research funding; this year, approximately \$107 million was appropriated by the legislature to support research aimed at discovering new and innovative biomedical technology, treatment or cures. This includes level funding for King, Bankhead/Coley and Moore; and an increase in funding for cancer research through state universities and independent research institutes.

Support and Expand the Florida Life Sciences Industry

In order to make Florida more competitive with other states, BioFlorida supports the infusion of funds and creation of tax incentives to support existing companies and to attract more life sciences companies to the state. BioFlorida favors increased funding for the continuation of these existing programs and new funding to support the expansion of the vibrant life science industry in Florida.

- **Support State Tax Reductions:** BioFlorida will monitor tax and fee reduction proposals (including, but not limited to: sales tax, commercial lease, and corporate income tax) to assess their impact on the life science industry and encourages our members to provide feedback to Governor Scott and legislative leaders on ideas for these proposals.
- **Promote State Biotechnology Competitiveness:** BioFlorida supports continuation funding to spur growth of Florida's biotechnology industry.
- **Support the Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research (Institute):** The Institute funds start-ups and helps investors and entrepreneurs identify new investment opportunities based on technologies developed through publicly-funded research.
- **Encourage investor funds in the life sciences:** support measures that encourage angel, venture capital, and other funding for Florida companies.



- **Strengthen Florida’s Economic Development Tool Kit:** including the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, the Quick Action Closing Fund, the High Impact Performance Incentive (HIPI) grants and the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund (QTI).

2018 Results: BioFlorida supports state tax incentives to help member companies better utilize financial resources on advancing new, innovative technologies. The legislature’s 2018 tax package included the \$9 million base funding for the research and development tax credit as well as a continued rollback on the commercial lease tax, reducing the current rate of 5.8% to 5.7% beginning January 1, 2019. Additionally, the legislature allocated over \$45 million to support the work of Enterprise Florida and the state’s economic development tools.

Additionally, BioFlorida supported the privatization of the Institute for Commercialization of Public Research. This language passed in HB 1285 and transitions the ICPR into the Institute for Commercialization of Florida Technology which will continue to offer seed and early stage investment capital in Florida without requiring an ongoing state expenditure for such support. Governor Scott signed this legislation on March 30th.

Support Patient Access and Appropriate Use of Therapeutic Options

Breakthrough cures and access to these cures have a two-fold impact: access to cures promotes discovery and support of Florida-based life science research; and these cures save the lives of Floridians.

- **Support Right Medicine, Right Time:** Support measures that increase access for Florida patients to prescription medications, including breakthrough medications, and support transparency in payor’s formulary process. Oppose measures that establish a system premised on therapeutic interchangeability of prescription medications and the dispensing therapeutic alternative medications without prior authorization of a prescriber.
- **Oppose artificial controls on the prescription drug marketplace:** Oppose legislation and other efforts to establish drug price controls or burdensome “drug price transparency” reporting requirements for manufacturers.

2018 Results: HB 21 Controlled Substances was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The bill addresses the opioid epidemic by placing appropriate regulations on prescription limits under certain conditions and provides continuing education requirements and penalties for healthcare practitioners. Additionally, BioFlorida worked with other industry stakeholders to advance solutions for a competitive, values-based health care system that does not intervene on drug pricing or endanger confidential trade information or innovative research.

BioFlorida supported the Fail First legislation, SB 98, which created an expedited and standard process for prior authorization, established time frames for prior authorization denial and acceptances and required health insurers to grant exemptions in certain situations. This bill moved quickly through committees and passed the full Senate unanimously. The companion measure, HB 199 was narrowed to only prohibit step therapy protocols that have been completed previously—this bill ultimately died in the Health and Human Services Committee.

Support the Marketing of Florida’s Life Science Business Brand

Increase interaction and exposure of advances made in the state and support continued economic development efforts centered on life sciences.

- **Support Enterprise Florida’s efforts to Market Florida’s Business Brand:** support increased funding to promote Florida as a destination for businesses in the life sciences.
- **Promote Florida as a Destination for Clinical Trials:** Develop and implement strategy to encourage clinical trials in Florida including education and incentives. Clinical trials improve



research and treatments, benefit patients, and contribute to the economy. Florida has already acknowledged its support of clinical trials through the collaboration agreement between the state and health insurers for insurers to provide routine coverage and cover patient costs associated with Phase I through IV cancer clinical trials.

2018 Results: The legislature funded the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund with a second year of \$85 million in funding. Eligible entities can apply for funding to support workforce training and infrastructure projects to improve Florida's business climate.