

Lauren Renz
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Re: Support (Favorable) for HB 0498 / SB 0427

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 0498 / SB 0427 - Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act.

As the Director of Investor Relations for Ecphora Capital, I have seen firsthand how the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit program fuels innovation and economic growth by incentivizing early-stage investment in promising medical technologies.

Working with the investors and Medtech startups in Maryland, I have directly experienced how the BIITC attracts the critical funding needed to bring life-saving innovations to market. However, despite its benefits, the current administrative structure creates unnecessary hurdles that discourage investor participation, particularly from institutional investors who are vital for the growth and scaling of medical innovations.

The BIITC program was designed to incentivize venture investment, yet the requirement that each individual investor must personally claim the tax credit creates an unnecessary administrative burden. Institutional investors, who play a crucial role in scaling new medical technologies, have made it clear that they will not participate unless the credit can be allocated at the entity level. Without this change, Maryland risks losing ground to other states with more investor-friendly tax credit programs.

Because I work closely with the various investors and have witnessed the K-1 process, I understand the importance of a smooth, efficient investment process. The current requirement for investors to individually navigate the tax credit process discourages participation. Allowing tax credits to be distributed at the entity level will remove barriers to investment, improve the investor experience, and encourage reinvestment in Maryland's biotech sector.

Maryland is a national leader in biotech, medical research, and healthcare innovation, home to groundbreaking discoveries and life-saving technologies. However, without efficient and competitive investment incentives, we risk losing momentum and pushing investors to other states. Programs like BIITC are critical to ensuring that the next generation of medical breakthroughs continues to be developed and commercialized here in Maryland, benefiting patients, researchers, and the broader healthcare community.

The BIITC program is a vital tool for driving investment, fostering medical innovation, and strengthening Maryland's economy. However, without this necessary reform, its impact will remain limited. By allowing tax credits to be allocated at the entity level, HB 0498 / SB 0427 will ensure that Maryland remains a premier destination for biotech investment, supporting the development of transformative healthcare solutions and solidifying our state's leadership in medical innovation.

I strongly urge you to support this bill and help secure the future of Maryland's biotech and healthcare innovation ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Lauren Renz