



Maryland House Economic Matters Committee

RE: Senate Bill SB0905: Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Program

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Delegates in the Maryland Economic Matters Committee,

I write on behalf of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (COMMISSION) to provide timely information as you consider Senate Bill 0905.

For context, the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) operates as an independent entity. It is managed by the Commission, with administrative support from Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO).

On February 3, in my capacity as Chair of the Commission, I testified before the Maryland House Economic Matters Committee on MSCRF's continued success in strengthening Maryland's economy while advancing life-saving treatments (see attached testimony). In addition, on March 5, I testified before the Maryland Senate Finance Committee in support of SB0905, proposing two amendments. This memo provides context for the Commission's proposed changes to SB0905 as it moves to the House.

Specifically, the Commission recommends the following:

- 1. Narrowing the focus** to advanced manufacturing as it relates to regenerative medicine or at least dedicating a defined portion of funding specifically to this area.
- 2. Reassigning oversight** by authorizing the Commission to implement, manage, and oversee the program or its relevant component.

Rationale for focusing on advanced manufacturing as it relates to regenerative medicine: The State already supports manufacturing programs in Maryland, including advanced manufacturing. As written, SB0905 duplicates those efforts. *However, the bill presents an opportunity to catalyze progress in regenerative medicine through the targeted application of advanced manufacturing.*

Such a focus is warranted given the unique technical demands and transformative potential of this field. In regenerative medicine, advanced manufacturing integrates computational methods with traditional approaches to better predict conditions that guide stem cell differentiation. It also accelerates production through automation, robotics, and AI - shifting from manual processes to scalable, standardized systems. This reduces time and cost, while expediting the delivery of life-changing therapies to patients.

Rationale for Commission Oversight: The Commission has over 20 years of experience and knowledge of the scientific, ethical, regulatory, and operational requirements and challenges unique to regenerative medicine. As written, SB0905 does not authorize the Commission to oversee the review or management of this program. In essence it would recreate a structure that already exists. This would be not only duplicative but also inefficient and costly

Maryland is well positioned to be a national leader in the burgeoning, highly lucrative field of regenerative medicine. New investment would secure that leadership and enhance economic growth in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of these two amendments. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further. Please feel free to contact me at 410- 952-9411.

Sincerely,

Rachel Brewster

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