

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Antonio Hayes
Vice-Chair, Senate Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Re: Support for SB 585, Human-Relevant Research Fund-Collection of Contributions-Responsible Entity

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-chair Hayes and honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned companies, we respectfully submit this letter in strong support of SB 585 and urge a favorable report.

In 2023, the General Assembly enacted HB 626/SB 560, establishing the Human-Relevant Research Fund to provide dedicated support for scientific research grounded in human biology. That landmark legislation positioned Maryland as a national leader in advancing modern biotechnology and promoting innovative, human-based research approaches that drive medical and scientific progress.

SB 585 makes a straightforward administrative update to ensure the continued success of that initiative. Specifically, the bill transfers responsibility for collecting the Fund's revenues from the Maryland Department of Health to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. This change was requested by the Maryland Department of Health, and we appreciate Secretary Atticks' willingness to have MDA assume this responsibility to support efficient and effective implementation.

This technical correction will help ensure the Human-Relevant Research Fund operates as intended and continues to strengthen Maryland's position at the forefront of cutting-edge biomedical innovation.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 585.

Sincerely,

Keith Murphy, Exec Chairman
VivoSim Labs
CEO, **Viscient Biosciences**

Amanda Ulrey, President
Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc.

James Hickman, Chief Scientist
Hesperos, Inc.

Jeff Moses, Chief Compliance Officer &
Director
GATC Health Corp.

Lorna Ewart, Chief Scientific Officer
Emulate, Inc.

John Kamis, Founding Business Lead
Axiom Bio

Ellen L. Berg, Chief Scientific Officer
Alto Predict

Case Lorance, President & Founder
NEXI Biotech