



May 20, 2015

Biocom Statement on Introduction of 21st Century Cures Act

Biocom, the association for the Southern California life science community, issued the following statement regarding the introduction of H.R.6, the 21st Century Cures Act, in the U.S. House of Representatives this week. This statement may be attributed to Joe Panetta, President & CEO of Biocom:

“Biocom commends Representatives Fred Upton, Diana DeGette, Joe Pitts, Frank Pallone, and Gene Green on introducing H.R.6, the 21st Century Cures Innovation Act. The legislation would make much needed changes to our regulatory environment, improve our innovation ecosystem, and ensure that patients have access to life-enhancing and life-saving products faster. H.R.6 offers a comprehensive and targeted set of proposals that address some of the most pressing challenges that currently hinder biomedical innovation and the development of the next generation of modern medicines.

In particular, Biocom commends the Committee on including additional discretionary and mandatory funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which will ensure that the Institutes have the resources to keep pace with biomedical inflation and continue driving biomedical research and development in the United States. We also strongly support provisions that would improve the operation and efficiency of the NIH; enhance hiring, training, and travel of personnel at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); establish a priority review pathway for breakthrough medical devices; make improvements to the medical device regulatory process; require clear standards for biomarker acceptance and qualification; advance the use of modern trial designs and real-world evidence; and create a pharmaceutical and technology Ombudsman at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS).

Biocom applauds this large-scale, bipartisan, and collaborative effort that has consistently engaged a broad range of stakeholders, from government agencies to patient groups to industry, since its inception a year ago. We look forward to continuing working with the Committee on the legislation, as well as on issues that are not addressed in the current text, including reimbursement of telemedicine and remote patient monitoring services.”

About Biocom

Biocom represents the Southern California life science community, which includes biotechnology, medical device, and diagnostic companies, universities and research institutions, as well as service providers and patient groups. With more than 660 members dedicated to developing life-enhancing and life-saving products, Biocom leads advocacy efforts to positively influence the region’s life science community in the development and delivery of innovative products.