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Massachusetts Update

Legal/Policy:

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, drafted and submitted comments on the National Institutes of Health Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research on May 26, 2009.

The Biotechnology Research Advisory Council suggested amendments to the Massachusetts Stem Cell bill. These amendments seek to clarify some of the scientific language in the bill and to include the Department's interpretation of "reasonable costs" in the law. State Senator Cynthia Stone Creem filed a bill in January of this year with these amendments and the bill is still pending.

Massachusetts Life Sciences Bill Funding Activities:

- June 16, 2009 marked the one-year anniversary of Governor Deval Patrick's signing of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Initiative. The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center made \$46 million in public investments in year one, leveraged \$357 million in additional private and federal investment, and helped create a projected 950 jobs. Investments made by the Center included:
 - \$10.6 million in matching grants to support scientific research at academic institutions.
 - \$8.2 million to establish an international Embryonic Stem Bank and Registry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester
 - \$7.4 million to support a major expansion of Organogenesis, a leading Canton-based regenerative medicine company
 - \$3.4 million in loans to provide working capital for early stage companies through the Center's Accelerator Program, and
 - \$500,000 to fund the launch of the Life Sciences Internship Challenge, a workforce development program that provides students and recent graduates with hands-on experience in the life sciences.