



A UNIFIED VOICE TO CREATE CHANGE



2021 POLICY PLATFORM

DEAR MEMBERS AND POLICYMAKERS,

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is the premier technology council working year-round to advocate for interests impacting the life sciences and technology industries in Maryland. On behalf of our members, we engage with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to address threats and opportunities that are critical for the business interests of highly competitive life sciences and technology companies. MTC also serves as an important connector between businesses, communities, and the government, facilitating conversations and driving important change.

MTC, its members, and the entire BioCapital region came together in 2020 to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and served on the frontlines of developing diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines. Our 2020 theme of “Better Together” was exemplified through the more than 30 meaningful connections MTC made among more than 40 members and nonmembers to match services and products organizations needed in their time of need. MTC members were also critical in the development of the Maryland Business Relief Wizard, which helped connect businesses with COVID relief programs.

In 2021, MTC will continue serving as a leading industry authority as we fight for an end to COVID-19. We will advocate to protect Maryland jobs and preserve the strong economic impact of innovative industries; prevent burdensome and ineffective government regulations on cutting-edge life sciences and technology companies; fight for additional resources as businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; and protect Maryland patients by ensuring they can access the innovative health solutions they need.

The Maryland Tech Council continues being a principal voice in Annapolis and will influence and support legislation to keep Maryland a national leader in entrepreneurship and innovation. Together with our members and policymakers, we can find solutions to Maryland’s problems and help sustain an environment where innovative companies can grow and succeed.

Sincerely,



Martin Rosendale

Chief Executive Officer, Maryland Tech Council

LEGISLATIVE COALITION

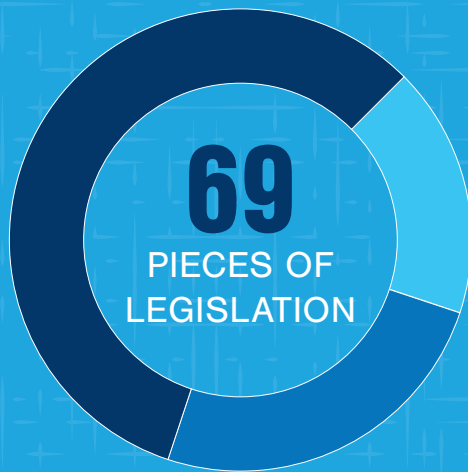


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2019-20 ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

Over the course of the 2019-20 Maryland General Assembly Session, the Maryland Tech Council and its members has been a leading contributor in helping shape beneficial legislation and changes on key issues relevant to our industry, including:



6 LIFE SCIENCES

26 TECHNOLOGY

37 ADDITIONAL BILLS

Taxes, Workforce and Other Relevant Issues to our Members

TAXES.

As a response to the Kirwan Commission recommendations to improve Maryland's education system, the General Assembly reviewed and recommended several changes to the current tax and revenue system in the state. This included various recommendations that would have negatively impacted MTC members. MTC was able to work with Committee Chairs and bill sponsors to preserve the Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit and the Buy Maryland Cybersecurity Tax Credit program; gain a sales and use tax exemption for the sale of qualified data center personal property for use at a qualified data center; oppose a state sales and use tax on services; and several other harmful tax bills. While opposed by MTC, a tax on annual gross revenues derived from digital advertising services including advertisement services on a digital interface in the state ultimately passed.

CONSUMER ONLINE PRIVACY.

The General Assembly began tackling a growing concern for consumers across the state, namely how user online data is collected, used, and stored. MTC opposed the piecemeal approach that was taken toward protecting consumer privacy, and instead advocated for a comprehensive study by the Maryland Cybersecurity Council to review current practices and provide recommendations. Ultimately, all of the bills addressing consumer online privacy failed during this session.

MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INCENTIVE PROGRAM MATCHING PROGRAM.

In working with Delegate Qi during the interim of 2019, MTC was instrumental in the crafting and passage of legislation which now provides eligible small businesses an award or investment of 25% of an SBIR/STTR grant limited to \$25,000 for Phase I funding or \$75,000 for Phase II funding.

MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

1

Continuous Advocate Engagement and Legislator Education

The Maryland Legislature is responsive to efforts to educate lawmakers about the overwhelming benefits of the life sciences and technology industries as well as the innovation economy. MTC will work with advocates to continue sharing this message.

2

Turning Maryland Tech Council Members into Life Sciences Ambassadors

MTC's best advocates are the life sciences members committed to developing world-class patient solutions in Maryland. MTC will educate members about the importance of advocacy and equip them to be effective life sciences champions.

3

Elevating the Unique, Authoritative Voice of the Maryland Tech Council

MTC has a unique voice as both an innovative leader and a patient advocate. MTC will continue to establish its reputation as a thought leader in championing the contributions of the life sciences and technology industries.

TOP PRIORITIES

COMBATING COVID-19

MTC will continue coordinating and leading the fight against COVID-19, including advocating for financial support for local businesses, health care systems and residents. We will work with our partners across the government to ensure necessary financial and regulatory support to foster a safe recovery and create policies that continue supporting the development and manufacturing of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for COVID-19.

FOSTERING ACCESS TO INNOVATION

MTC supports public policy that encourages the development of innovative products and services, like medications and therapies, cyber security, and advanced manufacturing and artificial intelligence. We are committed to fighting for affordable access to the innovative therapies and products for Maryland residents without negatively impacting the development of new innovations.

PROMOTING JOB GROWTH

MTC supports initiatives that incentivize innovative technology and life sciences companies to promote job growth in the state through increasing the availability of risk capital and workforce development programs. We support policies that foster collaboration and budget allocations for businesses and universities, community colleges and other education institutions to promote curriculum, internships, and apprenticeships that deliver the talent our members need.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

MTC advocates for Maryland to have the necessary technology infrastructure to provide high-speed internet and technology services for all Maryland residents, especially in a virtual environment. This includes favoring legislation that will increase 5G deployment and support the development of extraordinary technologies that save, protect, and improve lives.

DRIVING COMPETITION & ACCESS TO CAPITAL

MTC is committed to ensuring a competitive business landscape that attracts and retains world-leading businesses. We support legislation that protects access to capital and encourages equity investment into innovation companies, including the biohealth investor tax credit, angel investor tax credit, and legislation reducing estate planning taxes that cause entrepreneurs to move out of Maryland.

ENSURING DATA PRIVACY

MTC will fight for sound public policy that supports the right to data privacy protection and that does not unintentionally weaken consumer privacy, increase security threats, raise costs, or introduce operation problems that cause confusion and frustration for consumers or businesses.

ABOUT THE MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

We are a collaborative community that is actively engaged in building strong life sciences and technology industries by supporting the efforts of our individual members. We are the largest life sciences and technology trade association in the state of Maryland and we provide value by giving members a forum to learn, share, and connect.

Members of the Maryland Tech Council (MTC) are provided with educational programming taught by industry leaders with a focus on key topics, advocacy at the state and federal levels, and a variety of opportunities to participate in both large and small events. Members also have access to our Cost Savings Program where they can choose from our list of reputable companies that provide discounts for business services.

MTC is also able to serve the life sciences and technology communities with assets like the Maryland Health Care Product Development Corporation (MHCPDC). MHCPDC's goal is to stimulate growth of the biomedical industry in the state through "early stage" investment with promising Maryland biomedical and medical technology companies.

MTC MISSION STATEMENT

At the Maryland Tech Council, we support member companies who are saving lives, securing our nation and improving the quality of life through innovation.

MTC VISION STATEMENT

The Maryland Tech Council's vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the country.

OUR VALUE

We bring the region's life sciences and technology community together into a single, united organization that empowers our members to achieve their business goals through advocacy, networking and education.



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