

# A UNIFIED VOICE TO CREATE CHANGE



**2022 POLICY PLATFORM** 

2022 POLICY PLATFORM 2

# DEAR MEMBERS AND POLICYMAKERS,

As Maryland's leading technology and life sciences trade association, the Maryland Tech Council (MTC) works year-round to drive innovation and protect the interests of competitive life sciences and technology companies through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings and connecting entrepreneurial minds. On behalf of our more than 450 members, we serve as an important connector between businesses, communities, and the government, driving conversations that bring change and engaging with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels.

The Tech Council, its members, and the life sciences industry continue to lead efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its emerging variants through the development of effective diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines. In addition, our "It's Better Here" campaign, which highlighted Maryland and the BioCapital region's life sciences efforts around vaccine development, cell and gene therapy, biomanufacturing, and immunotherapy, was the recipient of the 2021 BioBuzz Media Award for leading groups and companies that are creating a stronger biotech community.

In 2022, MTC will again serve as a leading industry authority as Maryland continues its recovery from the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 and seeks to preserve the environment for investment and innovation. We will

support policy solutions that protect Maryland's innovation ecosystem and drive future investment in innovation, including tax incentives for Maryland businesses and policies that preserve intellectual property protections, maintain Maryland's ability to respond to public health challenges, and increase access to health care for Marylanders and their families.

The Maryland Tech Council is proud to be a prominent voice in Annapolis and Washington, D.C., and we will continue to aggressively pursue an agenda that strengthens Maryland as one of the nation's strongest life sciences and biotech industries. In partnership with our members and policymakers, we will advocate for Maryland businesses, patients, and industries, and help support an environment that allows Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the country.

Sincerely,

**Martin Rosendale** 

Chief Executive Officer, Maryland Tech Council

Martin P Rosendale

### LEGISLATIVE COALITION













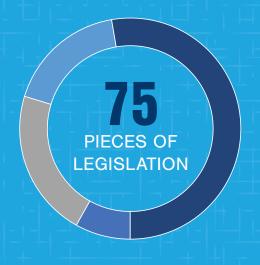




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# 2021 ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

MTC had a successful 2021 legislative session, aggressively advocating for legislation and policies to protect Maryland jobs and preserve the innovation economy on several fronts, including:



- 6 LIFE SCIENCES
- **16** TECHNOLOGY
- 14 TAXES
- 39 ADDITIONAL BILLS
  Workforce Development, Diversity, Equity,
  and Inclusion, and Other Relevant Issues to
  Our Members

### COVID-19

MTC and its members successfully advocated for policy solutions to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, support strong public health, and promote Maryland's economic recovery. MTC supported – and the legislature passed – several bills to protect the Maryland employers that were financially impacted by the pandemic. In addition, the legislature passed the Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act, although this legislation was heavily amended.

### **TAXES**

The Department of Commerce sponsored three bills that addressed tax credit programs benefiting MTC members. MTC supported these initiatives and worked with Commerce to address questions and concerns raised throughout the legislative process. Ultimately, all three initiatives were enacted. Senate Bill 19 specified that the biotechnology investment incentive tax credit was intended to foster the growth of Maryland's biotechnology industry by increasing investment in early-stage companies with the goal of promoting innovation and increasing the number of companies developing biotechnologies in Maryland.

### DRUG PRICING

MTC advocates for health care policy solutions that increase access to treatment without jeopardizing investment in the innovative treatments, tests and cures of tomorrow. Various bills concerning the cost of health care failed to pass this session, with the exception of House Bill 1034. This legislation repealed the date by which the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board must submit a plan of action, if drafted, to the Legislative Policy Committee for approval. The bill recognized that the Board just began its work, the submission date was arbitrary, and due to the complexity of the work, more time may be necessary to complete it. The legislation was passed without objection.

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# MAINTAINING MOMENTUM



# 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.

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### 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.

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### 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

# PRESERVING ACCESS TO INNOVATION

MTC supports policy solutions that protect
Maryland's innovation ecosystem and investment
in research and development for future
medications and therapies, cybersecurity,
advanced manufacturing, and artificial
intelligence. We are committed to fighting for
affordable access to innovative therapies and
products for Maryland residents in a manner that
protects future innovation.

# 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 academic institutions to promote curriculums, internships, and apprenticeships that deliver the talent our members need.

### SUSTAINING COVID-19 RESPONSE

MTC will continue leading the fight against COVID-19, including supporting residents, health care systems, and financial interests for local businesses. We will work with our partners and leaders to help ensure necessary financial and regulatory support for policies that continue supporting the development and manufacturing of diagnostics and treatments for COVID-19.

# STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE

With many returning to a both virtual and inperson environment, MTC will advocate for Maryland to have the necessary technology infrastructure to provide high-speed internet and technology services for all Maryland residents, including supporting legislation that will increase 5G deployment and the development of extraordinary technologies that save, protect, and improve lives.

# BOOSTING COMPETITION & ACCESS TO CAPITAL

MTC is committed to ensuring a competitive business landscape thrives in Maryland. We support legislation that bolsters business interests, protects access to capital, and encourages equity investment into innovative companies, including various tax credit incentives.

# ENHANCING DATA PRIVACY

MTC will continue fighting for legislation that protects data privacy and 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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For more information on how to get involved, contact Michelle Ferrone at Michelle@mdtechcouncil.com or 240.243.4047