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PRESS RELEASE

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SENATE PASSES LIFE SCIENCES BILL TO CONTINUE INVESTMENT IN CUTTING-EDGE INDUSTRY CRITICAL TO STATE ECONOMY

*Bill extends tax incentives to life sciences industry and authorizes targeted investments
in research and training facilities at UMass campuses across the state*

BOSTON — **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** and the Massachusetts State Senate voted on Thursday to pass a bill extending the state’s investment in life sciences research and training to capitalize on the state’s national advantage in the sector responsible for thousands of jobs in the state.

The bill, [S.2531](#), *An Act providing continued investment in the life sciences industry in the Commonwealth*, extends the state’s life sciences tax incentive program for another ten years, proposes millions of dollars in grants to community colleges and vocational schools to increase employment opportunities, and authorizes spending on initiatives to promote regional efforts to advance innovations in bio-manufacturing. The bill is based on the \$1 billion, ten-year initiative launched by Gov. Deval Patrick in 2007.

Senator Gobi had this to say: “Our area has a number of students and businesses who can benefit from these investments and I am glad to support all opportunities for job creation.”

“The life sciences and bio-manufacturing industry are job creators and integral parts of Massachusetts’ innovation economy,” said **Senate President Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester)**. “A decade ago, Massachusetts made a fantastic investment in life sciences. Today, the Senate seized the opportunity to spread growth and innovation across the Commonwealth and ensure that Massachusetts remains a national leader in the innovation economy.”

“We truly have a biotech and life sciences supercluster here in Massachusetts, and this bill will ensure we continue to grow and lead the way,” said **Senator Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**. “People across the nation and the world depend upon the cutting-edge medical devices, pharmaceuticals and research under development here, and our investments today in innovation, education and workforce training are critical for our continued growth and success.”

The bill also authorizes spending for innovative new programs at the state’s UMass campuses, including:

- a biotechnology and precision manufacturing research and training facility at UMass-Amherst
- a center for nursing innovation at UMass-Boston
- expansion and renovation of the center for advanced bio-manufacturing and digital health at UMass-Dartmouth
- a joint proposal between UMass-Lowell and UMass Medical School to advance neuroscience workforce training, research and commercialization of medical devices

The bill will now be reconciled with a version passed by the House of Representatives before going to the governor for his signature.

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