

For Immediate Release

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WINS Act Will Promote and Expand Innovation in Wisconsin

BioForward supports legislation to provide resources to advance, innovate and support Wisconsin's growing industry clusters

Madison, Wis. – October 19, 2017 – BioForward supports the Wisconsin Workforce and Innovation Network for Success (WINS) Act, announced this afternoon by Senator Alberta Darling, Senator Dan Feyen, Senator Van Wanggaard and Representative Adam Neylon. This legislation would create an Innovation Fund and Council to provide opportunities for more private sector engagement, and national and international exposure for industry clusters in Wisconsin.

Funding will be used to target strengths in Wisconsin's economy such as advanced manufacturing, industrial machinery, biotechnology, and computer system design through four main channels:

- Challenge grants that will incite innovative product development through competition
- Key partnerships that build industry cluster capacity
- Early stage R&D grants that push new products to prototyping and field testing
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) matching grants to launch technologies to commercialization

“The Wisconsin WINS Act will boost Wisconsin's thriving innovation economy, creating valuable collaboration opportunities across a broad range of industries,” said Lisa Johnson, CEO of BioForward.

“BioForward supports this type of investment that will energize high growth industry clusters and strengthen Wisconsin's image as a leader in innovation.”

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BioForward is the independent voice of Wisconsin's biohealth industry, providing services and resources to support the growth of our industry throughout the U.S. and the world. BioForward is the only Wisconsin organization representing over 200 biohealth member companies including biotech, biopharma, medical device, diagnostics, digital health, as well as research institutions, and service providers. For more information go to www.bioforward.org.