

For Immediate Release February 13, 2024 Contact: Rep. Amanda Nedweski 608-237-9161

## **Moving Wisconsin Bio-Forward**

Today, both chambers of the Wisconsin Legislature passed Assembly Bill 916, which provides \$7.5 million in state matching grant funds for the Wisconsin BioHealth Tech Hub's federal implementation grant application. Authored by Rep. Amanda Nedweski (R-Pleasant Prairie), this bill is a key component of BioForward, Inc.'s application for a federal grant that could amount, if awarded, to \$50-70 million for the state to expand its international presence as a biohealth hub and advanced manufacturing powerhouse.

The Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (<u>Tech Hubs</u>) program was created by the federal CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 with the aim of strengthening U.S. economic and national security through the funding of regional consortia specializing in <u>key technology</u> <u>areas</u>. The CHIPS Act authorized \$10 billion for the program over five years, and the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act provided an additional \$500 million to help facilitate its launch.

On October 23, 2023, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) <u>designated</u> 31 inaugural tech hubs and announced the recipients of 29 Strategy Development Grants (SDG). The <u>Wisconsin BioHealth Tech Hub</u> was one the tech hub designees and SDG recipients. The designation allows the Wisconsin BioHealth Tech Hub to apply for an implementation grant of \$50-75 million for 3-8 projects, while the SDG will enable the consortium to further develop its regional strategy for scaling up the manufacture, commercialization and deployment of critical technologies in personalized medicine.

"This exciting legislation has the potential to help bring significant resources to Wisconsin to leverage our highly ranked advanced manufacturing industry and our exemplary supply chain," remarked Rep. Nedweski. "The projects that these state dollars would fund help bring innovative technologies in personalized medicine to market, and they would invest in workforce education for highly specialized skills to support the technical career sector that continues to grow in Wisconsin, moving us (Bio)Forward!"

Rep. Nedweski (R-Pleasant Prairie) Serves as the Vice Chair of Colleges and Universities and serves on the Assembly Committees on Education, Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities, and Family Law.

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