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## USA's BayBio calls for California leadership to support life sciences

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Despite historic economic woes, the US state of California's life sciences industry's output was greater than ever before. The number of treatments, technologies and devices available to patients increased 35% in 2009 as compared to 2008.

In total, there are 1,754 marketed products available to patients, doctors and clinics worldwide that have California origins, according to data released today by BayBio during the launch of the flagship industry study BayBio: IMPACT 2010. Additionally, the report identifies 233 pending treatments, technologies and cures that represent more than \$50 billion in investments for new jobs, facilities and equipment in the immediate future. However, without appropriate economic policies and support for education, the State of California will see very little of this development.

"BayBio challenges California's leadership to pledge support for the life sciences community through legislation, regulation and support for state-level investment, particularly policies which support science education," said Gail Maderis, acting chief executive of BayBio, a non-profit trade association. "Promoting investment in the biotech innovation economy is rightfully a main concern, but it's a shame to lose the fruits of that research just as the industry matures into an economic beacon of growth. This does an enormous disservice to the fiscal health of the state and the job opportunities for Californians with community college degrees," she added.

### BayBio: IMPACT 2010 key trends

- Patients have access to more treatments than ever before. California's life sciences companies in 2008 had 1,294 treatments and technologies on the market; in 2009 California companies were responsible for 1,754 treatments.
- California's budget crunch will greatly affect education. In particular, science education will continue to fall short of meeting the employment needs of growing companies. As the current economic landscape shifts, funding dollars are tightening, M&A is ramping up, and larger organizations are working more collaboratively with smaller companies.
- The coverage and reimbursement environment is evolving, as regulators incorporate new technologies like personalized medicine and oral cancer treatments into the system.

### Proposed legislative action to maintain California's edge

The trade group says that priority actions, as identified by BayBio, should include: enacting a statewide strategy for math and science teacher attraction and retention; continuing to fund Employment Training Panel programs, enacting a strong manufacturing policy that includes fast track permitting; and supporting a strong UC, CSU and Community College system.

"California built its current success on a strong UC and State University education system and BayBio is committed to providing further opportunities for the state's workforce," Ms Maderis, stated, continuing: "The life sciences community urges the Governor and the Legislature to support core state programs that will drive innovation over the next 10 to 15 years."