



<http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2009/01/19/focus2-Life-Sciences-Snapshots.html>

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## **Initiatives: The word from the West Coast**

New England states are taking their varied initiatives to help tech sectors, including life sciences, thrive, and there are thoughts on what else needs to be done. So, what initiatives are being talked about outside of New England? BayBio, a life sciences association in South San Francisco, Calif., last week outlined its own state and federal action plans. Many ideas aren't that different from what we hear in New England.

### **Education and Work force**

1. Increase state training and production of licensed clinical laboratory scientists and medical lab technicians.
2. Enact a statewide strategy for math and science teacher attraction and retention.
3. Establish a science fellows program to serve the state government.
4. Increase state investment in training centers of excellence.
5. Increase state funding to [University of California](#) Discovery Grants Programs

### **Tax Policy**

1. Allow net operating loss transferability from emerging to established organizations.
2. Create corporate tax incentives for major investments in California.
3. Create a health information technology and life sciences early-stage investment incentive.
4. Convert California's R&D tax credit into a tax rebate.

### **Federal Policy**

1. Reform CMS fee schedules and current procedural terminology codes to reflect the professional services and value included in molecular diagnostic products.
2. Improve immigration and employment policies to empower employers to attract and retain the best talent in the world.
3. Increase National Institutes of Health funding beyond inflationary levels to 5 percent.
4. Patent reform must protect innovators and must increase the number of patent examiners.
5. Enact a pathway to biosimilars that supports innovation.
6. Reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research program to include companies with venture backing and increase available resources.

7. Increase staffing at the FDA to advance application evaluations smoothly and efficiently.
8. Direct the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to protect innovation.

### **Infrastructure**

1. Establish a new California Science & Technology Trust.
2. Expand allowable uses for the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank.
3. Incentivize local communities to zone biotech regions in their local general plan master planning.
4. Establish a major economic incentive for bioprocessing and biomanufacturing investments.

### **Regulatory Affairs**

1. Eliminate redundancies between California's Food and Drug Branch and U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspection requirements.