



March 3, 2026

Dear Senators and Representatives,

On behalf of Life Science Washington and the more than 500 life sciences companies, research institutions, and entrepreneurs we represent across the state, I write to respectfully urge you to prioritize two critical investments in the final 2026 supplemental operating budget negotiations that are essential to Washington's innovation economy and patient community.

First, please include \$250,000 to support the Center for Biotechnology Innovation and Training (CBIT) at the University of Washington Bothell. This funding is included in the Senate-passed operating budget.

CBIT was developed in partnership with life science employers to create an applied biotechnology pipeline aligned with high-demand industry needs. It is the only program specifically built to meet the life science industry's high-demand workforce needs, consistent with the original intent of the Workforce Education Investment Act. The program combines industry-informed curriculum, paid internships, and direct employer engagement to prepare students for lab and biomanufacturing roles.

Second, we urge you to support the Senate's \$20 million funding level for the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE Fund).

While the Senate-passed budget reflects a \$2.22 million reduction, the House-passed budget reduces funding to \$8.74 million, a cut of more than \$13 million. We are concerned that a cut of over half the program budget may not be operationally possible considering the grant awarding cycle. The CARE Fund remains one of the only state mechanisms dedicated to advancing new treatments for difficult-to-treat cancers. The Legislature has a long bipartisan, bicameral history of supporting cancer research through the CARE Fund, and we are surprised to see such a significant gap between the two chambers.

We respectfully ask that you prioritize these two investments in the final budget agreement. Thank you for your continued support of Washington's innovation economy and patient community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marc Cummings'.

Marc Cummings
President and CEO
Life Science Washington