July 14, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: We Work For Health Statement for the Record: Maintaining America's Leadership in Biomedical Innovation

Chairman Guthrie, Chairman Griffith, and Members of the Health Subcommittee:

On behalf of We Work For Health, a coalition that brings together national and local business leaders, and labor, biopharma, patient advocacy, and other healthcare stakeholders, I write in advance of the Subcommittee's hearing, *Maintaining America's Leadership in Biomedical Innovation: FDA's Role in Advancing U.S. Drug Development.*

We appreciate the Committee's focus on ensuring that the United States remains the world's leader in biomedical innovation. For decades, America's life sciences sector has delivered groundbreaking treatments and cures, improved and extended millions of lives, created high-quality jobs, and strengthened our nation's economic and strategic position. The policies Congress advances today will help determine whether the next generation of biomedical breakthroughs continues to be discovered, developed, and manufactured in the United States – or elsewhere.

Today, America's leadership in biomedical innovation faces unprecedented competitive pressure. Countries around the world are investing aggressively to attract scientific talent, clinical research, advanced manufacturing, and private-sector capital, but no competitor has moved more aggressively than China. Beijing has identified biotechnology as a critical industry of the future and is deploying a coordinated national strategy to challenge U.S. leadership. Through targeted government investment, aggressive talent recruitment, manufacturing incentives, and efforts to expand domestic research and development capacity, China is seeking to become the global leader in the life sciences.

For the first time in decades, America's leadership advantage can no longer be assumed. The question confronting policymakers is not whether global competition exists, but whether the United States will continue to lead. The decisions Congress makes regarding innovation policy, regulatory modernization, research incentives, and investment conditions will shape where future discoveries are made, where advanced manufacturing facilities are built, and where high-paying life sciences jobs are created.

The stakes extend far beyond the laboratory. America's biopharmaceutical industry directly supports over 1 million jobs and nearly 5 million more throughout the broader economy. Across the country, life sciences companies support researchers, manufacturing workers, engineers,

healthcare professionals, suppliers, and small businesses. Every research facility, manufacturing plant, and clinical trial site strengthens local economies while helping deliver innovative therapies to patients facing cancer, rare diseases, Alzheimer's disease, and countless other serious health challenges.

America's position as the global leader in biomedical innovation has not happened by accident. It is the result of decades of bipartisan policies that foster scientific discovery, support private-sector investment, protect intellectual property, and encourage innovators to take the enormous risks required to develop new medicines. Preserving those advantages will be critical if the United States is to remain the destination of choice for biomedical research and development.

A key component of that success has been a science-based and efficient regulatory system anchored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA's ability to evaluate innovative therapies efficiently while maintaining rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness has helped make the United States the global gold standard for medical innovation. As Congress begins considering the reauthorization of the agency's user fee programs, it has an important opportunity to strengthen one of the most successful frameworks supporting American innovation.

The Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) has played an important role in helping the FDA attract scientific expertise, modernize review processes, and provide greater predictability for innovators. A well-resourced FDA enables the timely evaluation of new therapies and reinforces America's attractiveness as a destination for biomedical investment. While FDA modernization alone will not determine whether the United States wins the global competition for life sciences leadership, it remains an essential part of a broader strategy to maintatin America's innovative edge.

At the same time, policymakers should avoid adopting policies that undermine the very innovation ecosystem that has made the United States the global leader in medical discovery. Policies such as Most Favored Nation (MFN) pricing and other forms of government price setting effectively import foreign government price controls into the American market. While often presented as solutions to affordability challenges, these approaches fail to address the complex barriers patients face in accessing care and do little to improve health outcomes.

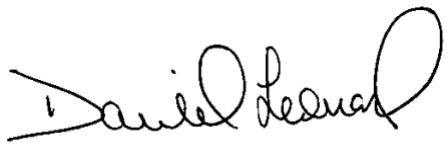
Instead, government price controls threaten to weaken the incentives that fuel biomedical innovation. Developing a new medicine requires years of research, extraordinary scientific expertise, and significant financial investment, with no guarantee of success. Policies that reduce the potential return on these high-risk investments inevitably affect decisions about future research and development.

That concern is particularly important in the context of global competition. As China and other nations actively work to attract life sciences investment, policies that diminish America's innovation advantage risk encouraging capital, research activity, and economic growth to move elsewhere. At a time when the United States should be strengthening its competititve position, policymakers should focus on measures that encourage innovation, foster domestic investment, support advanced manufacturing, and reinforce America's leadership in biomedical discovery.

Maintaining leadership in the life sciences is about more than staying ahead economically. It is about ensuring that the world's most promising scientific breakthroughs continue to be developed under America's gold-standard regulatory framework and made available to patients who are waiting for new treatment options. It is also about ensuring that the jobs, investment, and economic opportunity generated by biomedical innovation continue to benefit American workers and communities.

We commend the Committee for examining ways to streamline drug development and clinical trial requirements while maintaining the FDA's high standards for safety and effectiveness. AS this discussion moves forward, we encourage lawmakers to view biomedical innovation through the broader lens of economic growth, job creation, national competitiveness, and global leadership. The United States remains the world's leader in life sciences, but maintaining that position will require policies that strengthen innovation, reward investment, and ensure America continues to outcompete strategic rivals seeking to challenge our leadership.

Thank you for your commitment to America's patients, innovators, and life sciences workforce.



Dan Leonard
Executive Director
We Work For Health
www.weworkforhealth.org