



Past AUTM Leadership Reaffirm Support for Bayh-Dole Act

WASHINGTON (April 6, 2021) – The past Presidents and Chairs of AUTM yesterday issued a strongly-worded letter endorsing a proposed rule from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that would codify and clarify the original intent of the Bayh-Dole Act.

The Bayh-Dole Act, which became law in 1980, allows universities, small businesses, and nonprofits to own and license the intellectual property (IP) that results from federally funded research. Prior to Bayh-Dole, the federal government retained that IP, and did a poor job of licensing it to the private sector, which had the resources and skills to turn ideas into tangible products.

By incentivizing universities to license their discoveries to private firms, the legislation ignited more than 40 years of American innovation and helped generate up to \$1.7 trillion in economic output, support nearly 6 million jobs, and launch more than 14,000 start-up companies.

"The Bayh Dole Act has had a profound impact on Americans' health, security, and prosperity," said past AUTM President and current LSU Innovation Park Executive Director David Winwood. "Without its powerful incentives to commercialize research, promising discoveries would have languished in university labs, in a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars."

The proposed NIST rule would ensure that more research makes its way from university labs to consumers. The rule, which is currently being considered by the Biden administration, codifies the prevailing interpretation of the Bayh-Dole Act's "march-in" provision and dictates that it cannot be used as a government price control mechanism when a federally funded invention has been successfully commercialized.

"If policymakers mistakenly reinterpret Bayh-Dole to allow price controls, they'd thwart groundbreaking research nationwide," said Marc Sedam, AUTM's Immediate Past Chair, who helped spearhead the letter. Sedam also serves as Vice Provost for Innovation and New Ventures at the University of New Hampshire. "Finalizing NIST's pending rule, and thereby protecting the Bayh-Dole Act's transformative role in our economy, will spur further job creation in the United States and bolster our standing as a global technological leader."

[The full letter from AUTM's past presidents and chairs can be read here.](#)

About AUTM

AUTM is the non-profit leader in efforts to educate, promote and inspire professionals to support the development of academic research that changes the world and drives innovation forward. Our

community is comprised of more than 3,000 members who work in more than 800 universities, research centers, hospitals, businesses and government organizations around the globe. To learn more about AUTM, visit www.autm.net.

Media Contacts

Leef Smith Barnes

AUTM CMO

lsmithbarnes@autm.net

Paul Stark

AUTM Marketing & Communications Director

pstark@autm.net