



February 25 , 2025

To: The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee

RE: Support for FY26 Economic Development Article, Innovation Initiatives

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Regarding Budget Article 6: Economic Development, Innovation Initiatives Act, I am writing in support of the sunset extension of the Innovation Initiatives Act under FY26 Economic Development Article and request that the Committee consider allocating funding for this line item.

When I co-founded Mighty Well in 2016, I was advised to build my company in Boston, New York, or San Francisco—places with well-established startup ecosystems. But I chose to stay in Rhode Island because of the incredible resources available to early-stage companies like mine. Thanks to programs like the Innovation Voucher, Mighty Well was able to partner with the RIHOF BioMech Lab to test and collect lab data on our PICC Protected Kit, an innovative solution for patients undergoing long-term IV therapy, including chemotherapy.

The impact of this funding has been significant. Our product development efforts have led to a newly secured utility patent, further solidifying Mighty Well's role as a leader in healthcare innovation. Additionally, our PICCPerfect® Line Cover is now being used at Boston Children's Hospital for cardiology patients in acute and intensive care through a GPO contract with Premier.

Beyond product innovation, Mighty Well has expanded access to medical supplies by offering them directly to patients through MightyWell.com, ensuring that patients and caregivers can easily find the essential healthcare solutions they need.

Rhode Island's innovation ecosystem has grown tremendously in recent years. What was once an emerging startup scene is now a thriving hub for medtech and life sciences entrepreneurs. The state's commitment to fostering innovation has been a key factor in our success, and continued



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funding for programs like the Innovation Voucher, Matching Grants, and Patent Reimbursement is critical to ensuring that other startups can follow in our footsteps. Mighty Well would not be in business without the invaluable support of The New England Medical Innovation Center (NEMIC), the Social Enterprise Greenhouse (SEG), MassChallenge, RIHUB, RISB HUB, RCommerce, The Rhode Island Business Plan Competition, and our additional partners and investors. Their guidance, resources, and investment have played a critical role in our growth and success, helping us to transform patient care and solidify our position as an innovator in the healthcare space.

I urge the Committee to support the sunset extension of the Innovation Initiatives Act and continue investing in these programs that directly contribute to Rhode Island's economic and entrepreneurial growth.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to support the sunset extension of the Innovation Initiatives and consider allocating funding to the Innovation programs for next fiscal Year.

Respectfully,


Emily Levy

President & Co-Founder, Mighty Well

Rhode Island Resident, Entrepreneur, and Advocate for Healthcare Innovation
