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BioCT STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR NED LAMONT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL TO IMPOSE PRICE CONTROLS ON PHARMACEUTICAL INNOVATIONS THAT WILL BE DETRIMENTAL TO CONNECTICUT PATIENT'S HEALTH

Following Governor Ned Lamont's budget address to members of the General Assembly, BioCT's President and CEO, Dawn Hocevar issued the following statement:

"Imposing arbitrary mandates on biopharmaceutical innovation, especially in the midst of the worst public health crisis Connecticut and the country have seen in a lifetime, can dry up investment into early stage companies who are innovators in the development of health solutions, and potentially risk lives. The Connecticut bioscience industry has again shown its critical importance this year, and as we emerge from this pandemic, stifling research and development—which this proposal will do—puts the public and the lives of patients, living with some of the most complex diseases, at risk, not to mention our preparedness for the next pandemic.

Lowering drug pricing cannot be the sole responsibility of pharmaceutical companies which spend billions of dollars each year, in partnership with our biotech companies, to bring therapeutics and therapies to market. And, mandating price controls does not directly equate to patient savings, since there are no checks and balances to ensure pharmacy benefit managers and insurance companies pass savings on to patients. This form of price control creates the illusion of action, however, in reality it does not, and simply perpetuates a cycle of disfunction around the issue.

If Governor Lamont and the legislature truly want to lower drug pricing, then the pharmacy benefit managers, insurance payers and hospitals need to be part of the solution. Pharmaceutical companies invest more in R&D relative to sales than all but one other manufacturing industry—over 20%, more than six times the average for the manufacturing sector as a whole. Pharmacy benefit managers, insurance companies and hospitals do not bear the cost of innovation, research and development, clinical trials, or manufacturing and distribution.

Patient's lives and public health must remain our top priority, and the only solution to the drug pricing concern is to holistically address the ecosystem that determine what patients pay. The Connecticut Legislature must swiftly reject this proposal and begin to work with all parties, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, pharmacy benefit managers, hospitals and pharmacists, to address this concern and put the health of our citizens first."

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