



March 19, 2021

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Education

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for HB 2441, which renews the University Venture Development Fund (UVDF) tax credit program.

The translation of basic research into meaningful commercial products and services is a long-term process and one that cannot proceed without funding at critical points along the way. The UVDF program is instrumental in filling those gaps that exist to help transform today's research and development into tomorrow's businesses, ensuring that new and nascent technologies emerging from university laboratories will have a better chance to become commercially viable.

My research at OHSU is aiming at developing novel therapies for hard-to-treat cancers including triple negative breast cancers, ovarian cancers and clear cell sarcoma of soft tissue. The UVDF provided critical funding for my laboratory research to develop novel and unique small molecule drugs for treating triple-negative breast cancers that are not responsive to current drugs that are FDA-approved. With this critical initial funding for our innovative but also risky project at its early stage, we were able to generate preliminary data to support go/no go decision. With these supporting preliminary data, we were able to secure large National Institutes of Health-supported research projects that not only brought our project forward to potential commercial development, but also created more than six job opportunities in my lab over the last four years.

UVDF is a unique program that fills a critical need, and, without it to support early-stage commercialization, Oregon will be less able to contribute and compete in the global innovation economy. I urge your support of HB 2441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Xiangshu Xiao", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Xiangshu Xiao, Ph.D.**

Professor of Chemical Physiology and Biochemistry, Knight Cancer Institute

**School of Medicine**

Department of Chemical Physiology  
and Biochemistry  
Knight Cancer Institute

tel 503 494-4748  
fax 503 494-4352

xiaoxi@ohsu.edu  
www.ohsu.edu

Mail code: L334  
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd.  
Portland, OR 97239