

Submitter: Tushar Sharma

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2417

Representative Daniel Nguyen

House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tushar Sharma, and I am the CEO of Vivifi Medical, a clinical-stage medical device company at the Oregon Bioscience Incubator (OBI) in Portland, Oregon. Vivifi Medical is developing minimally invasive laparoscopic technology to treat prostatic conditions such as Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH) and prostate cancer. Our mission is to improve patient outcomes through innovative minimally invasive surgery. We are actively pursuing key clinical milestones to bring our technology to market, including ongoing open-surgical studies and an upcoming laparoscopic First-In-Human (FIH) study. I am writing to express my strong SUPPORT for House Bill 2417, funding for the Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (OTRADI) and the Oregon Bioscience Incubator (OBI).

OTRADI and OBI played a crucial role in our early development. During our formative stages, OBI provided invaluable mentorship, networking opportunities, and access to key industry leaders that helped refine our business model and product development strategy. The resources and support available through OBI allowed us to secure critical early-stage funding, including NSF SBIR matching grant funding, and successfully establish ourselves as a viable startup in the medical device landscape. Without OBI's infrastructure and guidance, our progress would have been significantly slower and more challenging.

Funding for Centers of Innovation Excellence like OTRADI is essential for fostering innovation and supporting emerging bioscience companies. With recent NIH budget cuts posing significant challenges to early-stage life science ventures, OBI's ability to continue providing resources and mentorship is more crucial than ever. Oregon's bioscience ecosystem has experienced tremendous growth, and ensuring OTRADI's continued operations will enable startups like Vivifi Medical to thrive, contributing to economic development, job creation, and advancements in healthcare innovation.

I strongly SUPPORT House Bill 2417, which will empower OTRADI and OBI to expand their impact and continue fostering the growth of Oregon's bioscience ecosystem. We look forward to continued collaboration with OTRADI and OBI as we

advance our clinical and commercial milestones. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tushar Sharma
CEO, Vivifi Medical