



IOWA BIOTECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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The **Iowa Biotechnology Association (IowaBio)**, a 501(c)6 non-profit trade association, was founded in 1994 to unify Iowa's bioscience industry, academic research institutions and economic development organizations. We represent more than 100 members across the state, who are invested in Iowa's biotechnology industry.

Biotechnology is an important pillar in the Iowa economy and our diverse membership makes a major impact in the state of Iowa and around the world. IowaBio seeks to elevate, support, advocate for, and connect Iowa's diverse biotechnology member companies, agricultural and life sciences ecosystem, and STEM talent pipeline. The following 2026 Legislative Priorities reflect these aims:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS CLIMATE, TAX CREDITS, AND TAX POLICY

IowaBio's diverse members, from startups to international industry leaders, positively impact the Iowa economy and provide high-paying jobs to Iowa workers. To continue to provide a business climate where companies in these fast-growing industries can thrive, IowaBio supports targeted economic development programs that strengthen Iowa's specialized bioscience economy and attract investment to growing companies across the state.

- IowaBio will take a lead role in coalition-building and advocacy efforts to advocate for bioscience-related tax credits and economic development programs such as the research activities tax credit, the renewable biochemical tax credit, and incentives to support Iowa's biotechnology startups and early-stage companies.
- IowaBio supports the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program and biofuels tax credits.
- IowaBio will support funding resources to enhance the State's biotech ecosystem.

FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

INGREDIENTS AND CROP PROTECTION

IowaBio members lead the way in food supply chain innovation and the growing bioeconomy at every step of the agriculture to consumer value chain. From crop protection, seed and animal genetics, and more nutritious and environmentally sustainable food, to new value-added products—Iowa is the epicenter. Iowa's policies must acknowledge and support our unique global place and responsibility to help feed the world.

- IowaBio will monitor legislation impacting IowaBio members who participate in the food ingredient value chain, including policies that ban, discourage, define, or label food ingredients.
- IowaBio supports efforts to ensure the best crop protection tools are available to farmers, and supports efforts to create or expand incentive programs to encourage the use of biological and innovative technologies in agriculture and other bio-based industries that will grow Iowa's bioeconomy, provide value to agriculture, benefit Iowa's environment and lower carbon emissions.

PHARMACEUTICALS

PATIENT ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY, VACCINES, AND ANIMAL HEALTH

IowaBio member companies are some of the top innovators in the pharmaceutical development space. They provide invaluable impact on patient health and quality of life, and also provide critical animal health innovations to protect and enhance our food supply. Ensuring these treatments and innovations are affordable, safe, and accessible, and that the regulatory environment supports continued innovation, is as important as the innovation itself.

Patient Access, Safety, and Affordability:

- IowaBio will closely monitor and evaluate any anticipated legislation or regulations regarding the federal 340B Program, drug pricing and transparency.
- IowaBio supports the integrity and safety of the pharmaceutical supply chain, which is foundational to protecting public health, maintaining patient trust, and ensuring access to safe and effective medications.
- IowaBio supports patient access and affordability legislation to ensure all amounts paid on behalf of a patient count towards their out-of-pocket costs, including co-pay accumulator, maximizer, and alternative funding programs.

Public Health and Vaccines:

- IowaBio supports strong, science-backed immunization policies and opposes additional exceptions to Iowa's law requiring childhood vaccinations. IowaBio will serve as a resource to the legislature and other stakeholders on industry efforts to research and develop innovative vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable diseases, including vaccine dissemination, effectiveness, and safety.

Animal Health:

- IowaBio supports the development of and funding for cutting-edge animal vaccines and opposes efforts to hinder development or ban access to these critical agricultural tools. IowaBio will monitor and respond to threats that could limit the ability to conduct biotechnology and biomedical research.

BIOSCIENCE TALENT PIPELINE

STEM EDUCATION, AND WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

IowaBio's member companies care deeply about a robust talent pipeline and a strong workforce in STEM fields. One of IowaBio's core purposes since its formation has been to foster Iowa's vibrant, diverse talent pipeline. Through our support of STEM education, and our Future Biotech Leaders Fund, IowaBio creates meaningful partnerships in order to support students, teachers, schools, colleges, and universities through scholarships, stipends, programming, and competitions that encourage and enrich STEM education.

- IowaBio supports legislation that funds and enhances STEM workforce attraction, training, and retention programs including STEM internships, STEM Best, Future Ready Iowa, and Empower Rural Iowa.

RENEWABLE FUELS

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER ACCESS

IowaBio supports Iowa renewable fuel production, including ethanol, biodiesel/renewable diesel, and sustainable aviation fuels, and supports ensuring these fuels can be efficiently manufactured and accessed by consumers, positioning Iowa to continue to lead this important industry.

- Carbon capture and sequestration methods, including pipelines and regenerative/sustainable farming practices, should be considered and implemented, to ensure Iowa can compete in the global economy and open promising new markets, like sustainable aviation fuel.

Questions? Contact Executive Director, Jessica Hyland at jessica@iowabio.org or 515-822-1315.