



For Immediate Release
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**New England Biotech Association Applauds Governor Patrick, Mass.
Lawmakers for Allowing Patient Assistance Programs**

Newly signed budget lifts ban on prescription drug discounts

(Wakefield, Mass.) Members of the New England Biotech Association (NEBA) commend Governor Deval Patrick and lawmakers in both the State Senate and House of Representatives for working together to pass a law that will finally allow the use of prescription medication co-pay discounts in the Commonwealth. The ban was lifted as part of the signing of the fiscal year 2013 budget.

After years of debate, Massachusetts joins the 49 other states in the nation in allowing co-pay assistance programs to be accepted for the purchase of medication.

“Finally patients in Massachusetts can take advantage of the same discounts available to residents in every other state,” said NEBA Chairman Paul Pescatello. “The lifting of this ban shows a real commitment to give patients access to the medications they need to remain healthy.”

Until now, Massachusetts was the only state in the nation that banned consumers from using co-pay assistance programs to help pay for their prescription drugs. Often, this forced patients to choose between the cost of the copayment for their life saving medications and other necessities.

About NEBA:

Representing over 600 members from all six New England states, NEBA is committed to educating policy makers and the public about the biotech industry; promoting public policies that foster innovation; encouraging economic development in the biotech sector; and advocating continued patient access to life-saving and life-improving breakthrough biotechnology medicines.

To find out more about NEBA, visit www.newenglandbiotech.org.

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