

## **Response by Former Congressman Nathan Deal Republican Candidate for Governor**

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### *Life sciences economic development:*

#### **What is the role of state government in supporting life sciences economic development?**

The growth in life sciences economic development is dependent upon a number of factors that our state government can positively influence. As a national leader in biotechnology research and development, Georgia is uniquely poised to create an economic and regulatory environment that encourages growth in the industry. Tax relief for small businesses and providing support for venture capital missions to encourage innovative biotechnology companies to develop and grow in our state are key ingredients to building upon Georgia's well established biotech presence. I have offered a comprehensive economic development plan that addresses many of the issues which hamper growth in the biotechnology sector, including tax relief for all businesses in Georgia, elimination of corporate income taxes during 'seed' years for new companies, and the establishment of a Certified Capital Company (CAPCO) program which will infuse much-needed funding in the area of venture capital in our state.

Georgia must also focus on growth and development of a highly trained workforce in the areas of science, technology and mathematics to enhance our state's ability to attract biotech firms. As the home to a number of world-class research institutions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a host of well-established firms and organizations, we have a strong foundation in place. As your next governor, I will work to ensure the educational framework to generate a skilled workforce for biotechnology firms is in place.

As you know, more than 62,000 workers in our state and approximately \$16 billion in sales are a direct result of the biotech industry. The importance of this industry to our state is vital, and as your next governor, I will continue the effort to encourage growth in biotechnology by providing an ideal environment for research, development and industry growth.

*K-16 science education:*

**How can Georgia ensure that its students will be able to compete for 21<sup>st</sup> century advanced technology jobs and that our state will have the skilled work force to support life sciences industry growth?**

Critical to our mission of advancing biotechnology in our state, we must ensure the educational framework is in place to produce highly skilled, work-ready population to support our goal. Georgia is fortunate to serve as a home to a number of world-class research and educational institutions that provide a strong foundation for the advancement of biotech research, development and education. As your next governor, I will work with these institutions as well as the firms and organizations committed to enhancing growth in the biotech sector to encourage students to enter into fields of study conducive to growth in Georgia's biotech presence.

Georgia's K-12 education system must also be prepared to meet the challenge of producing well-prepared students in the field of science, technology and mathematics. Our state must be ready to compete, both nationally and globally, to provide a high-quality education to our students. I am encouraged by recent efforts to allow new public school opportunities to Georgia's students through the charter system, many of which are focused on the mission of advancing science and technology education in our state. It is efforts such as these that provide more opportunity for students to learn and teachers to focus on curriculum to improve the primary and secondary education our students receive.

*Federal health care reform:*

**What, if anything, is the most critical need for Georgians when it comes to health care reform?**

Ensuring availability and access to healthcare services are top challenges. Being able to improve the public health in our state depends on securing a highly trained workforce and on providing support to increase healthcare jobs throughout our state. As a member of Congress, I served as chairman and senior Republican on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health. I have been active in federal health care policy. It is with this experience I will be prepared to serve as a governor with the improvement of the health of our state at the forefront of my agenda.

Availability of care is strongly tied to issues that biologic firms face in today's economic environment. We must enact appropriate incentives to encourage innovation and spur competition in biotechnology. Biologics provide some of the most promising new therapies for devastating health conditions. We must ensure, both at the state and federal levels, that mechanisms are in place to enhance research and development of biologic drugs as we continue to combat challenges such as cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and other equally devastating conditions.