February 3, 2026
Michigan House Economic Competitiveness Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Members of the Michigan House Economic Competitiveness Committee,

I am writing to express support for House Bill 5031 on behalf of Iaso Therapeutics, a MedTech startup in East Lansing that has leveraged SmartZone support to start and grow our business in this region.

Iaso Therapeutics was founded in 2018 to translate academic discovery into real world medical impact through a breakthrough synthetic vaccine platform designed to deliver faster, more adaptable immune responses to emerging threats. Our company has grown to a team of full-time scientists and trained interns who are working to scale this novel technology, while also contributing to Michigan's growing pipeline of highly skilled biotech and MedTech talent.

The Lansing Regional SmartZone has played an important role in our development by connecting us to early-stage funding, regional partners, and the broader innovation ecosystem. Through these resources, we have been able to make meaningful traction that would otherwise be difficult for a young company to reach.

As a startup to build new technology, House Bill 5031 means being able to count on the programs and partnerships that helped us get started and continue to grow. Extending SmartZone support gives early-stage teams the confidence to invest, hire, and keep their work rooted here in Michigan.

I encourage your support of House Bill 5031 and the regional systems that help companies like ours turn research into real world solutions.

Sincerely,



Robert Forgey
President and CEO
Iaso Therapeutics