



## AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NORWAY

### **Innspill fra AmCham Norway: Notat til høring vedr. Representantforslag 8:108 S (2021-2022) om å styrke investeringene i norsk helsenæring**

*AmCham is a not-for-profit, member-led organization working to strengthen bilateral trade and business relations between Norway and the US. On behalf of our transatlantic member companies, we work to increase the attractiveness of Norway for international investment, employment, and innovation.*

AmCham Norway fully supports Venstre Document 8:108 S (2021-2022) on the strengthening of investment in the Norwegian healthcare industry. As stated in the proposal, encouraging job and value creation outside of Norway's current leading industries is crucial for the future success of the Norwegian economy. The healthcare industry is capable of meeting this challenge, if properly supported. To unlock this potential, it is important to view healthcare in its proper international and highly competitive context. We strongly support this proposal's demonstration of the strengths and challenges faced by the industry in Norway, along with its suggested solutions.

In bolstering investment in the healthcare industry and building an ecosystem capable of competing internationally, one must establish a dialogue with all key stakeholders. This representative recommendation touches upon the important support for industry growth already indicated by the government, via multiple white papers and action plans addressing industry growth, clinical trials and the importance of prioritization. This recommendation also accurately and succinctly represents private industry support of these goals through each of its five recommendations.

#### **Existing Support**

Through the government's past communications, it is clear that a robust healthcare ecosystem in Norway is critical to the future of the welfare system and of great benefit to the economy. Despite this stated support, there has been little done to implement positive change and rectify negative trends such as the decrease in number of clinical trials, low spending on innovation, and diminishing foreign investments.

This proposal from Venstre wisely outlines key steps that can be taken to build up the domestic healthcare ecosystem in Norway, achieving goals set by government and industry alike. In alignment with AmCham Norway's work on behalf of international healthcare companies, and insight into the requirements of an internationally competitive healthcare market, we support each of the five proposals listed in this Document. We place particular weight on suggestions two (Reducing Wait Time) and three (Establishing a Forum), which would work toward a much-improved rate of access to treatments and encourage a better dialogue between public and private partners, respectively.

#### **Reducing Wait Time**

Time to access for new treatments in Norway is, on average, more than twice that of other Northern European countries. This is true of both oncology medicines and general treatments. Upon closer inspection, we note that this delay is even more bleak as it accounts only for the 47% of medicines approved by EMA that made it to the Norwegian market (as of 2019). If Norway wants to attract

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innovative trials, increase investments, and be on the cutting edge of treatments, it is critical that the system finds a way to reduce wait time for treatment access. Multinational healthcare companies rely on directing investment to healthy, stable and supportive international markets. Norway's domestic market needs to reflect this necessary prioritization.

### **Establish a Forum**

A collaborative forum, similar to that established within Denmark's Life Sciences Strategy, would help to strengthen *dialogue and trust* between public and private healthcare actors. Such a forum has wide support from the private sector and would directly address goals set out within the 2019 Whitepaper on the Healthcare Industry, as well as key findings from the Evaluation of New Methods. When looking at the slow progress made toward goals outlined in the Whitepaper on Healthcare Industry, there is a clear need for political leadership to overhaul the culture of cooperation between public and private partners. A forum could instigate that conversation and be a foundation for that trust.