TechNet

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February 25, 2013

State of Oregon
Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: **Senate Bill 460 – *Support***

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services,

TechNet, (www.technet.org) which represents the nation's leading technology companies in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, networking, clean energy, e-commerce, internet media and venture finance, writes in support of your Senate Bill 460 in its entirety, relating to the dispensing of "biosimilar" biological medicines.

This legislation is an important step in updating Oregon law, as biosimilars are inherently distinct from innovator therapies because they are derived from different cell lines, in contrast to chemically identical generic pharmaceuticals.

The requirements in Senate Bill 460 permit substitution of interchangeable biosimilars in a manner that ensures patients and doctors have accurate information about which biosimilar product is used to treat a particular patient. The bill requires that information be available in the event that the use of a biosimilar produces different or unintended outcomes, the manifestation of which may occur over a period of time. These steps ensure the safety of patients and allow new treatments to be used with confidence, an outcome necessary to foster continued innovation in the biotechnology sector.

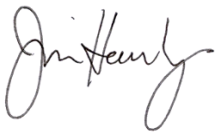
TechNet strongly supports policies to encourage continuing innovation in biotechnology. The biotechnology sector is delivering compelling new treatments for diseases ranging from cancer to arthritis. Over the last 10 years, the biotech sector has created tens of thousands of new, high-quality U.S. jobs. This legislation provides a careful, balanced framework governing the use of biosimilars, maintaining incentives to invest in research and development, resulting in more jobs and improved medical treatments and, ultimately providing doctors and patients more and better choices.

TechNet supports Senate Bill 460's provisions ensuring that patients and their doctors have the information and latitude to make decisions about what is best in terms of efficacy and safety. SB 460 requires that substitution of a biosimilar should occur only when the FDA has approved a biosimilar as interchangeable and the prescribing physician has not stated expressly that the prescription is to be dispensed only as indicated. SB 460 requires that the patient and physician be notified when an interchangeable biosimilar has been dispensed in place of a biological product and further requires that the pharmacist maintain a record of substitution of interchangeable biosimilars.

TechNet urges passage of SB 460, inclusive of all five of the above mentioned requirements, since it supports the introduction of biosimilars in a way that ensures the safety of the patients and preserves the physician-patient relationship while encouraging innovation by the job-creating biotechnology sector.

We appreciate your leadership on these issues and would be pleased to provide any further information that you may require.

Sincerely,



Jim Hawley
General Counsel & Senior Vice President, State Policy

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services