



Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
District 25: Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village

Colleagues,

We bring before you today Senate Bill 460, a bill to allow for less expensive drugs to be dispensed in Oregon as well as keep patients safe while taking these drugs. SB 460 concerns medicines called **“biologics” and “biosimilars”**. Biologics are complex, large molecule drugs that treat serious illnesses, such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis. A **biosimilar** is a “similar version of an innovative biologic medicine.” And this is important – A biosimilar is not generic, *the same or identical* as the innovator biologic.

The bill’s basic premise is to create a pathway for biosimilars to be dispensed in Oregon. Currently there is no statutory authority or regulatory processes to allow for patients to take these life saving medicines. In addition, the bill aims for maximum transparency and safety by ensuring the prescriber (a doctor, nurse practitioner, etc.) is notified **AFTER** a biosimilar has been dispensed.

I know you have all heard from both sides on this issue but I think it is important to understand **what this bill is and what it isn’t**. We really need to focus on what the bill actually does, which is simple:

This bill IS:

- A bill to allow interchangeable biosimilars to be dispensed by pharmacists.
- A bill to keep patients safe by ensuring the prescribing physician knows what medicine their patients are taking.
- A bill (with the filed amendments) whose goal is to match current law on generic prescribing in every way except for ensuring patients are safe by notifying the prescribing physician **AFTER** an interchangeable biosimilar as been dispensed.

This bill is NOT:

- A bill to add ANY impediment to the prescribing of biosimilars.
- A bill to increase the cost of drugs – rather, I see this bill as **LOWERING** the cost of drugs by providing a pathway for less expensive biosimilars to be dispensed by pharmacists.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.