Oregon Bioscience Association

SB 460 Testimony, February 28, 2013

The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) represents 660 scientific organizations, research institutions and bioscience-related companies. Several major companies—Genentech, WelchAllyn and Biotronik—have chosen to establish a significant presence in our state. These organizations are committed to developing next-generation products based on the latest medical innovations.

Oregon's bioscience industry continues to be one of the **fastest growing job creators** in the state. Between 2001 and 2011, jobs grew approximately 30.6%, with a direct economic impact of $4.1 billion, generating $1.8 billion in personal income. Oregon's bioscience industry directly employs over 14,000 workers, and the economic impact indirectly supports 37,000 workers statewide.

Oregon Bio supports Senate Bill 460 as a pathway for patient access to safe and effective biosimilars. SB460 includes the guiding principles adopted by Oregon Bio and the world's largest bioscience trade association, the Biotechnology Industry Association (BIO). Both organizations believe, "that a sound policy in each state outlining parameters for **safe substitution of interchangeable biologics is the best option to ensure patients have access to high-quality, safe and effective biologic medicines.** BIO's core concerns are to safeguard patient safety and the primacy of the physician-patient relationship, recognizing that treating physicians and their patients are in the best position to determine appropriate therapies."

Together, we've developed **Guiding Principals when substituting biosimilars for biologics**:

1. Substitution should only occur when the FDA has designated a biologic product is interchangeable
2. The prescribing physician should be able to prevent substitution
3. The prescribing physician should be notified at submission of the substitution
4. The patient or authorized patient representative should be notified of any substitution
5. The pharmacist should keep records of the substitution.

Biologics have emerged as a revolutionary way to treat often critically ill patients whose diseases include cancer, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis; they have changed the lives of patients, enabling them to live longer, better lives. Biologics can also be expensive. Our challenge is to find the most effective way of leveraging biosimilars, thus offering **less costly alternatives for patients. However, we also believe access to affordable biosimilars and biologics are not harmed by more complete substitution tracking.** Given the desire and need for cost-saving measures, this can only be accomplished if patient safety and provider/patient treatment decisions remain the guiding principles in the process.

As more traditional treatments give way to advances being made in "personalized medicine", it will become even more important that physicians remain the central decision maker. Clearly, future treatment models will involve a multi-disciplinary approach dependent on the physician (and other health care team members) having access to detailed prescribing data.

Additionally, Oregon Bio feels it is important to recognize that this bill does not restrict the insurer's ability to manage drug benefits, the use of formularies, copays or other tools used to encourage biosimilars and maintain affordable healthcare and the greatest options for patients.

Thank very much for the opportunity to present this information. If you have any questions, we will do our best to address them.