



March 3, 2015

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Chair, Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

**Re: SUPPORT SB 147 – Relating to biological products – physician/pharmacist notification**

Dear Madam Chair,

The Oregon Urological Society, composed of Urologists from throughout the state, strongly urges you to support Senate Bill 147.

***Urologists need to know what biological product their patient has been given – it is good for patients, it is good for their doctors, and it is good for care management.***

In 2013, Oregon passed SB 460 that set forth in Oregon statute the process for the safe substitution of interchangeable biological products (*biosimilars*) once approved by the FDA. Unfortunately, one of the key provisions of that bill – **notifying the prescribing physician of the product substituted by the pharmacist** – was given a two-year sunset. SB 147 would make permanent this important provision. With the FDA expected to approve the first copy of a biological product (*often referred to as a biosimilar*) later this year, and other approvals expected shortly thereafter including products designated as “interchangeable” (*meaning they can be substituted by a pharmacist without the intervention of a physician*), **it is imperative that this notification provision be reinstated this year.**

As you may know, Urologists often prescribe biological products. Knowing exactly what product our patients are taking – especially with biologics which are much more susceptible to varying degrees of success depending on the individual patient (this is not as true for generic drugs) – **is essential to providing high quality, cost effective care both in the short and long-term.**

We believe any burden possibly placed on the pharmacist in the rare instance when they must notify us via a call, fax or email (rather than through available electronic means) **far outweighs the benefits to our patients and our overall care delivery system.**

**The one concern we have** is the failure of the bill to define when a pharmacist must notify the physician of the product substituted. We would like to work with you to determine an appropriate time whether it be 5-days or some other number, but ultimately it needs to be defined

Thank you for your consideration and please support and pass **SB 147**.

Sincerely,

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