



PacificSource Testimony in Opposition to SB 147

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Chair Monnes-Anderson and members of the Senate Health Care Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to SB 147. PacificSource is an independent, not for profit health plan, based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid and Medicare lives and are the contracted Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) in Central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge. We are committed to ensuring our Members have access to healthcare services and treatments that are of high quality and are affordable.

We are opposed to SB 147, which changes communication requirements for pharmacies or pharmacists that substitute a biological product and requires the pharmacy to provide notice of potential substitution.

We believe this bill is not only unnecessary, but would harm consumers by limiting the use of biosimilars and interchangeable biologics at a time when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is working to create a process to determine their interchangeability in the marketplace.

Specifically, we believe that:

- Legislation that limits biosimilar substitution would increase costs for consumers and create artificial barriers for their use.
- Given that biosimilars are not yet available for patients in the U.S., legislation that limits biosimilars and interchangeable biologics is premature and unnecessary;
- Biosimilars and interchangeable biologics, once available, will be safe for patients having been thoroughly vetted through the FDA process and subject to existing state pharmacy laws and regulations that protect patients.

Having biosimilars and interchangeable biologics freely available to Oregonians will give patients improved access to life-saving medications while reducing healthcare costs. At a time when the healthcare system is moving toward value-based benefits and services for consumers, PacificSource urges the legislature to oppose SB147 which limits our ability to provide affordable, safe and effective medications to patients.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken P. Provencher".

Kenneth P. Provencher
President and CEO, PacificSource