

TESTIMONY - STATE BIOSIMILAR SUBSTITUTION

**Oregon Senate
Committee on Health Care and Human Services**

Committee on Health Care and Human Services consideration of SB 147

Speaker:

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Disclosure:

I have no disclosures to make regarding my travel here today. The Global Healthy Living Foundation accepts grants and charitable contributions from pharmaceutical companies, government, private foundations and individuals. We have received scientific briefings from pharmaceutical companies, as well as from our independent medical advisory board.

Good afternoon. Chairman, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Anna Marie Meyer. I am a single mom. I was born in Laurelhurst and now live in Happy Valley. The legislators that serve my community are Senator Alan Olsen and Representative Bill Kennemer. I'm here today representing myself, CreakyJoints, an arthritis support organization which is part of the Global Healthy Living Foundation, and other people in Oregon who are, or will be taking biologics and biosimilars.

I have taken biologics and had adverse reactions to them, as well as to other drugs, including antibiotics. I am here to speak in favor of Senate Bill 147. More specifically I support the notification requirements Senate Bill 147 contains because if physicians had not known exactly what drug I was taking, including the name of my biologics, when I had a severe adverse reaction, I could have died. Both I and the treatment team taking care of me knew every drug I was taking and considered these drugs when they were saving my life.

So as you can see, in my mind this is not an argument reserved for corporations, their products, profits, or interests. It is an argument about people and what information we need in order to feel better, to control our chronic illness, and to stay alive when the worst happens.

I want to be very clear when I say that I am not here to talk about whether biosimilars should or should not be on the market or whether insurance companies should be able to influence what drug a patient takes. If a drug is approved by the FDA, I assume it is safe and effective. If my insurance company wants to switch a drug that the FDA says it can switch, I trust the FDA's decision and will take that drug. I am only asking that I, and my doctor, know what drug that is. I knew what drugs I was taking. My doctors knew what drugs I was taking. And that information helped save my life when I had allergic reactions

This is the first time I've spoken to legislators. It is very intimidating. But it is very important. As I look around the room I see people here who are dressed better than I am and who may speak better than I do, making a living speaking to legislators across the country. I'm not one of those people. I'm a Oregon citizen who is alive today because my doctor and I knew what drugs I was taking. As patients we don't want to give that up. And as compassionate legislators, you can't let that happen.

GHLF and I urge the members of this Committee to support Senate Bill 147. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my remarks and I would be pleased to provide any further information that you may require. Thank you for your time and attention.