



Oregon Bioscience Association

February 25, 2015

Senate Committee on Health Care
c/o Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 147

The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) believes that the communication requirements for pharmacists that substitute a biological product for a referenced biologic, as outlined in SB 147, will ensure Oregon's prescribing rules are consistent with established federal regulations and allows for a flexible physician notification system that can ensure an accurate medical record of Biosimilars substitution.

Oregon Bio believes the legislature should leverage the progress that has been made on the federal level to clarify the pathways and definitions governing biological products, thus remaining consistent with FDA determinations regarding interchangeability to avoid unnecessary confusion in the market place. By relying on the FDA to play its traditional role of providing therapeutic equivalency guidance for approved drugs, Oregon providers and state regulators can reference the list of FDA approved interchangeable Biosimilars.

Additionally, we believe, given some of the inherent differences between generic, small molecule drugs and interchangeable biologics, it is important to maintain a reliable and flexible physician notification strategy. The unique characteristics of biologics and Biosimilars means that it is important to maintain medical records to ensure immunological reactions can be detected, and adjustments made to patient's treatment plan.

The requirement to maintain an accurate drug dispensing history through a flexible physician notification system is also completely consistent with Oregon's commitment to evidence-based medicine. Without recording the specific drug dispensing and substitution data for each patient, Oregon medical policy makers will not have access to the patient outcomes data necessary to establish evidence-based coverage policies.

As the collective voice for the bioscience industry, Oregon Bio asks you to support Senate Bill 147 and its goal to safeguard the ongoing health of all Oregonians.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dennis McNannay, Executive Director