

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State House of Representatives
Salem, OR

RE: House Bill 2026 – Relating to biological products

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) operating in Oregon, I would like to thank you for holding a hearing on House Bill 2026. The NACDS member companies in Oregon operate over 400 stores, employ over 58,000 full and part-time employees, and pay over \$52 million in state taxes.

NACDS support House Bill 2026 with one minor amendment to Section 1, Subsection 12.

The reference to the Orange Book on page 3, lines 8-9 should be replaced with a reference to the Purple Book, so that the language around appropriate parameters for how the Board can define “interchangeable” should read as follows:

Delete: Approve Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations and insert: Lists of Licensed Biological Products with Reference Product Exclusivity and Biosimilarity or Interchangeability Evaluations.

We agree the Board of Pharmacy is the appropriate regulatory agency for overseeing this legislation and support the dispensing parameters related to the lowest retail cost, effective interchangeable biosimilar product.

Substitutability helped spur the growth of the generic drug industry at an earlier time and is similarly essential to help foster competition in the biological drug market. Ultimately, such competition will spur innovation, improve consumer choice and drive down medical costs ... The high standards for approval of biosimilar and interchangeable products means that patients and health professionals can be assured that when those products go to market they will meet the standards of safety, efficacy and high quality that everyone expects and counts on. Efforts to undermine trust in these products are worrisome and represent a disservice to patients who could benefit from these lower-cost treatments.

We appreciate your consideration of our proposed amendment. .

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