

TESTIMONY - STATE BIOSIMILAR SUBSTITUTION

**Oregon House of Representatives
Committee on Health Care**

Committee on Health Care consideration of HB 2026

Speaker:

Anna Marie Meyer
Patient Advocate
Global Healthy Living Foundation

March 16, 2015

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 Greenlick and Vice-Chairman Hayden, 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 who serve my community are Senator Olsen and Representative Kennemer - who I am happy to see, is a member of this committee. 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 am here today to express my firm opposition to House Bill 2026.

I have taken biologics and had adverse reactions to them, as well as to other drugs, including antibiotics. On March 4th I provided public comments before the Senate Committee on Health Care in support of Senate Bill 147 which also deals with the substitution of interchangeable biosimilars. I supported Senate Bill 147 because it contains notification requirements between pharmacists, physicians, and patients. These provisions are incredibly important to me 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.

Not only does House Bill 2026 lack critical notification requirements, further, it actually repeals existing law that requires a pharmacist to notify a patient like me if my biologic is switched.

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