

**Michael Stevens, MD**  
President

**Madelaine Feldman, MD**  
Vice President

**Gregory Schimizzi, MD**  
Treasurer

**Gary Feldman, MD**  
Secretary

**Jacob Aelion, MD**  
Director

**Aaron Broadwell, MD**  
Director

**Mark Box, MD**  
Director

**Philippe Saxe, MD**  
Director

**Michael Schweitz, MD**  
Director

**Joshua Stolon, MD**  
Director

Two Woodfield Lake

1100 E Woodfield Road, Suite 350

Schaumburg, IL 60173-5116

Phone: (847) 517-7225 | (847) 517-7229

Email: [csro@wjweiser.com](mailto:csro@wjweiser.com) | Website: [www.csro.info](http://www.csro.info)

February 1, 2016

Representative Mitch Greenlick,  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE, H-493  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: Support House Bill 4105 (Nosse) – Relating to biological products; declaring an emergency.**

Dear Representative Greenlick:

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is a national organization composed of approximately 35 state and regional professional rheumatology societies. CSRO formed by physicians to ensure excellence and access to the highest quality care for patients with rheumatologic, autoimmune, and musculoskeletal disease.

Rheumatologists are on the forefront of treatments for patients with autoimmune diseases. With the advent of biologic medications, we have been able to stop the progression of some of these diseases and avoid the development of life-long deformities. Biological products available for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases have had a significant impact on improving our patients' quality of life, preventing deformities and disability, and lowering mortality.

**As you consider HB 4105, CSRO wishes to convey its support for this important legislation.**

This bill provides important pathways for access to these unique medications. It also creates much needed patient safety rules including for dispensing pharmacists to communicate with physicians about biosimilar substitutions within 5 days. Requiring this communication as quickly as possible provides physicians an opportunity to counter and correctly report any adverse effects of medications.

With FDA approval of the first biosimilar drug last year, biological products continue to be of growing importance for rheumatology patients. CSRO supports the safe introduction of interchangeable biologic drugs into the practice of medicine in Oregon and urges passage of HB 4105 without amendment.

Sincerely,



Michael Stevens, MD  
President  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations