



## **PacificSource Testimony in Opposition to HB 4105**

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Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chairs Nosse and Hayden and members of the House Committee on Health Care, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in response to HB 4105. PacificSource is an independent, not for profit health plan, based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid and Medicare lives and are the contracted Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) in Central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge. We are committed to ensuring our Members have access to healthcare services and treatments that are of high quality and are affordable.

PacificSource opposes HB 4105, which increases the communication requirements for pharmacies or pharmacists that substitute a biological product. We continue to believe this notification requirement is unnecessary and introduces administrative obstacles to substitution that will have the downstream impact of fewer pharmacists or pharmacies electing to dispense biosimilars and interchangeable biologics.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the push toward notification fosters unnecessary fears that these medications are somehow unsafe, when we know these products have been used successfully in other countries for years. The Federal Drug Administration approval process is extremely rigorous. Once a biosimilar or interchangeable biologic is made available on the market – it will have been extensively vetted and it will be subject to existing state pharmacy laws and regulations that protect patients.

Given the escalating cost of prescription drugs in the United States, we are eager to see biosimilars and interchangeable biologics enter the market. These products will provide Oregonians with improved access to life-saving medications while reducing healthcare costs. At a time when the healthcare system is moving toward value-based benefits and services for consumers, PacificSource urges the legislature to oppose HB 4105 which erects unnecessary barriers and we believe, chills the potential for broad use of affordable, safe and effective medications.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken P. Provencher".

Kenneth P. Provencher,  
President and CEO, PacificSource