



February 3, 2016

House Committee on Health Care; c/o Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair

RE: HB 4105

The Oregon Bioscience Association (Oregon Bio) represents Oregon's \$4.1 billion bioscience industry. Bioscience and bio-technology is the fifth largest sector in the state and one of Oregon's steadiest economic engines. In 2011, 775 bioscience related organizations employed 17,293 people in Oregon. Our members are committed to developing next-generation products based on the latest medical innovations.

HB 4015 addresses the need for communication between health care providers and pharmacies when dispensing of biologic products. Biologic products are large-molecule, living-cell treatments and the FDA is currently reviewing several "interchangeable biologics" for approval. These products will be new to the market, and while deemed "interchangeable", all biologic products can be very dynamic in how they work with each individual patient. The unique characteristics of biologics and biosimilars require a heightened focus on maintaining medical records that capture continued efficacy or any immunological reactions. HB 4105 will ensure that providers and patients have the best access to information once we see substitution of biologics and their biosimilar counterparts.

Many of our member companies produce the latest in biologic medicines. However, many will also produce biosimilar products or both of these products. These companies want to ensure that patients and providers have confidence in both innovator and biosimilar products and HB 4105 will help ensure just that.

Finally, we want to reiterate that HB 4105 does not force any changes to insurance formulary requirements. Insurance plans will still have the same ability to determine reimbursement rates for biologics and their interchangeable counterparts.

HB 4105 is workable for stakeholders throughout the health-care community. Further, biotech companies have an ethical duty to build credibility and awareness with patients and providers, even in light of the FDA approval process. HB 4105 seeks to provide patients and physicians essential information about interchangeable biologics as these therapies come to market.

As the collective voice for the bioscience industry, Oregon Bio asks you to support HB 4015 and its goal to encourage medical innovation and treatment while safeguarding the ongoing health of all Oregonians.

Thank you for your work on this issue,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis McNannay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis McNannay, Executive Director