

Providence Health & Services
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February 3, 2016

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4105, Interchangeable biologics

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

On behalf of Providence Health & Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide our input regarding HB 4105, as proposed. Providence has been engaged in this discussion since legislation was first proposed in 2013 and remained consistent in our position that requirements related to dispensing or substitution of biologic products must: ensure patient safety in a manner that limits unnecessary burden on pharmacists and providers; and, not create real or perceived barriers to dispensing of interchangeable biologics.

Though there was discussion over the interim, in order for Providence to take a neutral position the following provisions would need to be included in HB 4105:

- The provider notification process must not create a significant barrier to dispensing interchangeable biologics instead of current biologics.
- Patient notification process must be the same as generics – as was the intent of the 2013 legislation.
- Language clarifying that when a biologic or interchangeable biologic is dispensed in a clinical setting (eg. hospital, long term care facility, clinic, etc.) an entry into the patient medical record constitutes provider notice, as required in the bill.
- A clear statement that vaccines are not considered biologic products subject to notification requirements.
- Sunset provision of no more than six years.

Interchangeable biologics offer patients the promise of significant savings and increased access to much-needed therapies. Once approved through strict review by the Federal Drug Administration, these products will be subject to existing state pharmacy laws and regulations that protect patients. Therefore, prematurely complicating this option for patients may cause unforeseen consequences.

Providence urges you to consider our proposed suggestions before moving forward with HB 4105. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment, we look forward to participating in continued discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Underriner".

Dave Underriner
Chief Executive Officer
Providence Health & Services - Oregon