



March 4, 2015

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Committee On Health Care and Human Services
900 Court St. NE, S-413
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairwoman Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

The Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA), the trade association representing the manufacturers and distributors of generic pharmaceuticals, is pleased to support SB 147. Leaders in the generic industry have successfully produced safe and effective biosimilars for sale outside the U.S. since the early 2000s. As five biosimilars are currently before FDA for approval, it is critical that states take action; states will need legislation in place to allow automatic substitution when FDA approves the first interchangeable biological products. This legislation is a step forward for Oregon, ensuring that less expensive FDA-approved interchangeable biologics can be substituted. GPhA respectfully requests the committee move SB 147 forward to increase access to affordable medicines.

Since 2012, different versions of substitution legislation have dropped in numerous states. Late last year, GPhA agreed to support compromise automatic substitution legislation put forth by several GPhA members because it reflects our core principles by upholding the current pharmacy practice of automatic substitution; insisting on the science-based FDA determination of interchangeability; and the most important part of the legislation, treating interchangeables and their corresponding brand biologics the same during dispensing. SB 147 contains these principles.

The compromise language is a vast improvement over previous language, which erected numerous barriers to the substitution of interchangeable biologics. SB147 relies on electronic records to fulfill the communication requirement, meaning in an increasing number of pharmacies, nothing else must be done once the product is dispensed.

GPhA applauds the Committee's commitment to Oregon's access to affordable interchangeable biologics with SB 147. Thank you so much for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brynna M. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brynna M. Clark, Esq.
Senior Director of State Affairs
Generic Pharmaceutical Association