



Testimony for House Bill 2107

House Health and Human Services Committee

By Jody Reel, PharmD

Kansas Pharmacists Association, Topeka Kansas

January 23rd, 2017

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Jody Reel, and I am a Kansas pharmacy owner and Chair of Government Affairs /Board Director for the Kansas Pharmacists Association. The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association in Kansas that represents Kansas pharmacists from all practice settings. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of KPhA in opposition of House Bill 2107--Inclusion of Biological Products in the Pharmacy Act of the State of Kansas.

The language regarding the "presumed communication" for the prescriber in Subsection H on page 19 is disconcerting. Having a communication that is presumed will result in a lack of communication. Most of the options for creating this communication are not accessible to the prescribers. This lack of communication may result in professional tension between pharmacists and prescribers. Certain groups will interpret the language to mean that a communication will be sent to prescriber. If this were the case, it would create a substantial burden on both pharmacies and providers.

The communication to the physician after dispensing has the potential to create profession tension, since the medication cannot be changed after it is dispensed. If the prescriber does not want the biosimilar dispensed, then the branded medication would have to be dispensed, causing an enormous waste in unused medication. This will significantly increase the cost of healthcare for patients, payers, and the State of Kansas.

While most biosimilars are currently dispensed at specialty pharmacies, this bill will affect every pharmacy in the near future. Primarily, biosimilars will be available for commonly used medications, such as insulin. Most medications in the pipeline are biological and will be the future of pharmacy.

Most importantly, a precedent has been set with the availability of generic medications. If a prescriber does not want a pharmacist to substitute, then the option to "Dispense As Written" is selected. This should be applied to biosimilar products that are determined as interchangeable, just as it is applied to generic medications now. Utilizing this process would prevent any miscommunication between pharmacists and prescribers.

Thank you for your consideration on House Bill 2107--Inclusion of Biological Products in the Pharmacy Act of the State of Kansas. While language regarding biosimilars is important to have in Kansas, this language creates miscommunication due to its vagueness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody K. Reel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jody K. Reel, PharmD

Chair, Government Affairs  
District 2 Board Director  
Kansas Pharmacists Association