Biotechnology Innovation Organization

**BIO SUPPORT FOR HB 2107**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Schmidt and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee. And thank you for considering the important piece of legislation.

My name is Greg Hoke. I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, or BIO. BIO is the international trade association for all things biotechnology. Our member companies are involved in food, agriculture, fuels and healthcare.

I am here today to ask your support of HB 2107, which is legislation that will allow pharmacists to substitute follow-on biologic products, while assuring that substitution is done with the prescriber's authorization, and with the patient's notification.

Because biologics are made from living cells, and are not exact copies of the innovator drug, current state substitution laws are silent of biologic substitution. And why this legislation is necessary.

The language in HB 2107 is the result of years of work with industry, providers, pharmacy, chain store, PBMs, and most importantly patient groups. It's through the work of these groups that 5 principles for biologic substitution were developed. Those principles are:

- Substitution should occur only when the FDA has designated a biologic product as interchangeable
- The prescribing physician should be able to prevent substitution
- The patient should be notified of the substitution
- Communication from pharmacist to the prescriber of the substitution, and
- A record of the substitution should be kept by the pharmacy.

HB 2107, which includes these 5 principles, will allow pharmacist to substitute potentially lower-priced, life-saving, life-changing interchangeable biologics.

To date, 28 states, and Puerto Rico, have approved this legislation. 13 more are targeted for 2017. We look forward to the passage of HB 2107 in Kansas.

Thank you.

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