Testimony in support of House Bill 2107 March 16, 2017
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Chairwoman Schmidt and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Action Network (ACS CAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 2107, which adds biologic products to the Kansas Pharmacy Act. ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. As the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government.

ACS CAN supports House Bill 2107. The development of biologic drugs has provided cancer patients and their physicians with access to improved therapeutic options. As generics have done for small-molecule drugs, **interchangeable biosimilars have the potential to increase price competition on older biologic drugs, and result in lower cost burdens for cancer patients**. As it is written, this bill includes important protections to ensure physicians and patients provide appropriate consent for substitution, appropriate records are kept, and safety and interchangeability are ensured.

As biosimilar policies are developed, they must focus on ensuring the safety and efficacy of all biologic drugs, whether innovator or biosimilar, and policies must also ensure access and affordability of biosimilars for cancer patients. The FDA requires robust evidence proving sufficient equivalence in terms of safety and efficacy between innovator biologics and those deemed as "interchangeable biosimilars." Even so, biologics are manufactured in living organisms, and are therefore much more complex than manufacturing pharmaceutical generics. In addition, biosimilars are not exact replications of their reference biologic product and as such, a patient's response may be different to the substituted product. Given the complexity of treatments for cancer patients, these minor differences could result in significant complications that would not be readily understood if both the patient and prescriber are left uninformed of the biosimilar substitution. Dispensing a biosimilar without the knowledge of the prescriber and patient could jeopardize patient safety in the event of an adverse reaction.

By allowing safe and appropriate substitution with biosimilars, HB 2107 can increase price competition, thereby lowering costs for cancer patients in our state.

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