



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

**Testimony on HB 2107
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
March 16, 2017**

Honorable Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) operating in Kansas, we would like to thank the Committee for hearing HB 2107. Members of NACDS include 15 companies, operating 442 pharmacies, employing over 28,000 full and part-time Kansas residents and paying \$460 million in state taxes.

The Bio Substitution Bill before you represents a great deal of work and compromise. Although we do not support the reporting requirements as outlined in Section 3, subsection (h), based on an agreement reached with the proponents to amend section 3, subsection (b) to eliminate the language requiring notification of the patient of a substitution “prior to” dispensing, we can remain neutral on this piece of legislation.

Federal law states that biosimilars that have been determined to be interchangeable “may be substituted for the reference product without the intervention of the health care provider who prescribed the reference product”.

The 2010 law expressly states that a pharmacist or other dispenser may substitute an interchangeable biological product for the reference product without consulting the prescriber. This is important. Substitutability helped spur the growth of the generic drug industry at an earlier time and is similarly essential to help foster competition in the biological drug market. Ultimately, such competition will spur innovation, improve consumer choice and drive down medical costs. The high standards for approval of biosimilar and interchangeable products means that patients and health professionals can be assured that when those products go to market they will meet the standards of safety efficacy and high quality that everyone expects and counts on. Efforts to undermine trust in these products are worrisome and represent a disservice to patients who could benefit from these lower-cost treatments.

We appreciate the Committee’s consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,
Lis Houchen
Regional Director, State Government Affairs
lhouchen@nacds.org