

Corey Woodby

From: Ray Patnaude <ray@safebiologics.org>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 5:32 PM
To: The Office of Senator Hune; The Office of Senator Marleau; The Office of Senator Jones; The Office of Senator O'Brien; The Office of Senator Stamas; The Office of Senator Robertson; The Office of Senator Meekhof
Cc: Safe Biological; Senate Majority Committee Clerks
Subject: ASBM Position on HB 4812 S-1

Dear Senate Health Committee Members,

The Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines has previously expressed support for **HB 4812** regarding the substitution of biosimilar biological products. Our Chairman, pediatric rheumatologist Harry Gewanter MD testified in support of this bill before your Committee on January 19th of this year, and several of our members have provided oral or written testimony in favor of the bill.

However, we understand that a substitute bill HB 4812 S-1 is being introduced which would eliminate the pharmacist-physician communication provision.

Unlike generics, biosimilars are not exact copies of their reference products, and even seemingly minor differences between similar biologics can result in unexpected effects including unwanted immune responses.

It is therefore critical for physicians to know the exact biologic medicine their patient receives, so that informed treatment decisions may always be made throughout treatment. It allows an accurate patient record to be maintained, so any adverse events can be attributed to the correct product immediately. This also aids in long-term tracking of safety and efficacy of these medicines.

Unsurprisingly, 80% of 376 U.S. prescribers of biologics ASBM surveyed consider communication of in the event of a biosimilar substitution "very important" or critical".

Given the absence of this critical communication provision, we strongly oppose the substitute bill (HB 4812 S-1).

We urge you to oppose the substitute bill (HB 4812-S-1), and instead support the version passed by the House (HB 4812), which accurately reflects the importance of timely communication and collaboration between healthcare providers.

Sincerely,
Harry L. Gewanter, M.D., FAAP, FACR
Chairman
The Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines

Michael S. Reilly, Esq.
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