



Michigan Medical Group Management Association
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February 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Shirkey
Michigan State Senate
Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee
320 Farnum Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Shirkey,

As president of the Michigan Medical Group Management Association (MiMGMA) I am writing to express my support for HB 4812.

Biosimilars, highly similar versions of biologics, are complex medicines made from living cells, which makes them difficult to manufacture and duplicate. While they might offer the same time of relief as innovator biologics, it is important to note that they are not exact replicas. Because of these complexities, this legislation must treat them as such, even if they are deemed interchangeable.

HB 4812 will be beneficial to a patient's entire health care team because it requires communication between pharmacists and prescribers within five business days of an interchangeable biologic substitution. This communication allows doctors to know exactly what is going into their patients' bodies. Many patients are dealing with complex diseases, and it is imperative that their entire health care team has complete and accurate medical records.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for doctors to know their patients' history in order to give them the best possible care in order to prevent a possible adverse event. This critical aspect of HB 4812 makes all the difference and ensures patients, prescribers and pharmacists are all aligned and are putting safety and transparency first.

Yet, despite the clear benefits the communication aspect provides to pharmacists and patients the requirement is being painted as a mandate. The recently proposed HB 4812 S-1, which eliminates the communication requirement, will put the lives of patients at risk. The communication aspect is far from a mandate – it is a critical part of making sure that patients, have the chance to receive the most complete treatment process possible.

Michigan lawmakers have a chance to pass legislation that can truly make a difference in the lives of patients all over the state. MiMGMA supports HB 4812 as passed by the House of Representatives and opposes HB 4812 S-1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Doreen Schoenborn'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Doreen' being more prominent than the last name 'Schoenborn'.

Doreen Schoenborn, COO, CMPE, MA
President
Michigan Medical Group Management Association