



Senator David Wilson
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee

Senator Shelley Hughes
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Senate Bill 32, Biosimilars

Dear Chairman Wilson and Senator Hughes:

Because we believe it not in patients' interest, we respectfully oppose any amendment to SB 32 that, as a condition of dispensing an FDA-approved interchangeable biologic in accordance with a valid prescription, would require a pharmacist to contact the prescriber for consent and direction beyond what the prescriber has already provided in the prescription he or she wrote.

This requirement will ultimately harm patients with serious diseases by delaying prescription fulfillment through additional administrative requirements, including calls to prescribers; and by raising concerns among patients that the lower-cost biosimilars the FDA has determined to be interchangeable may somehow be less safe or inferior to their reference products.

Such an amendment would also conflict with federal law. The Biological Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA) provides that interchangeable biological products "may be substituted without the intervention of the healthcare provider..." The FDA is aware of the complexity of these products, and, in order to be approved, interchangeable biological products will have to meet the rigorous safety standards set forth in the BPCIA. Due to these factors, we strongly feel that the current language of SB 32 protects patients and will benefit the state of Alaska.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mark Guimond", written in a cursive style.

Mark Guimond, Director of State Legislative Affairs
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cc: Members, Senate Health & Social Services Committee