



February 2, 2017

The Honorable David S. Wilson
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) is pleased to express our strong support for Senate Bill 32 by Senator Hughes, which permits substitution of biologic medicines by Alaska pharmacists. BIO represents over 1,000 biotechnology manufacturers, biotechnology centers and research centers across the United States and around the world.

BIO supports SB 32 because it contains important provisions that take into account the special and complex characteristics of biologic medicines. Unlike traditional chemically derived medicines, biologics are made from living organisms making them effective in treating life threatening diseases and conditions such as cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes. Pharmacy substitution with these special medicines should therefore ensure patient safety by limiting substitution to biologics designated as interchangeable by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and by establishing open communications between the pharmacy and prescriber as a way to ensure all those involved in a patient's care know exactly the course of treatment for that patient. This bill contains those important provisions, which is why we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to support SB 32.

If you have questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 606-8016 or bwarren@bio.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Warren", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian Warren
Director, State Government Affairs
Western Region

cc: Members, Senate Health and Social Services Committee