CSRO
COALITION OF STATE RHEUMATOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Schweitz, MD
President

Michael Stevens, MD
Vice President

Mark Box, MD
Secretary

Gregory Schimizzi, MD
Treasurer

Jacob Aelion, MD
Director

Aaron Broadwell, MD
Director

Gary R. Feldman, MD
Director

Madelaine Feldman, MD
Director

Philippe Saxe, MD
Director

Joshua Stolow, MD
Director

Robert Sylvester, MD
Director

Two Woodfield Lake
1100 E Woodfield Road, Suite 350
Schaumburg, IL 60173-5116
Phone: (847) 517-7225 | (847) 517-7229
Email: csro@wjweiser.com | Website: www.csro.info

February 16, 2015

Utah State Senate
350 North State, Suite 320
PO Box 145115
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

RE: Support HB 279 (Dee) – Prescription notification amendments

Dear Members of the Utah State Senate:

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is a national organization composed of 30 state and regional professional rheumatology societies formed in order to advocate and ensure excellence and access to the highest quality care for patients with rheumatologic and musculoskeletal disease.

Rheumatologists are especially aware of the dramatic long-term, life-changing clinical improvements that biological products have on some of the most disabling conditions that affect Americans. Biological products available for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases have had a significant impact on improving our patients' quality of life, preventing disability, and lowering mortality.

As the Utah State Senate considers legislation on biosimilars and interchangeable biologics, **CSRO wishes to convey its support for the premise of HB 279 (Dee)**. We would also like to emphasize the critical importance prescriber notification has on patient safety.

As currently written, HB 279 would lengthen the notification period from three business days to "within a reasonable time." Requiring communication within three days offers physicians a much safer and more consistent window to understand and counter any adverse effects of medications. **We ask that the notification provision be amended in HB 279 or any similar legislation, to include a three business day requirement**.

CSRO recognizes that follow-on biologics and biosimilars are a natural evolution of medications and as the FDA is expected to approve the first biosimilar drugs this year, we welcome this important amendment to Utah's existing law. At the same time, we must insist that patient safety remain the most important concern and request all legislation on biosimilars allow physicians to quickly know what medicine their patient receives.

Sincerely,

Michael Schweitz, M.D.
President, CSRO