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September 2, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown  
Governor, State of California  
c/o Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary  
Governor's Office, State Capitol  
Sacramento, Ca.95814

**Re: Support Senate Bill 671 – Pharmacy: Biological Product, dispensing of interchangeable biosimilars.**

Dear Governor Brown:

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is a national organization composed of more than 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, autoimmune, and musculoskeletal disease.

Rheumatologists are on the forefront of utilizing the dramatic long-term, life-changing clinical improvements that biological products have on 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 you consider signing SB 671, CSRO wishes to convey its support for this important legislation.**

This bipartisan bill provides important pathways for access to these unique medications. It also creates much needed patient safety rules for dispensing pharmacists to communicate with physicians about biosimilar substitutions within 5 days. Requiring this communication provides physicians a consistent window to understand and counter any adverse effects of medications.

With FDA approval of the very first biosimilar drug in March, biological products continue to be of growing importance for rheumatology patients. CSRO supports the safe introduction of biosimilars into the practice of medicine in California and urges passage of SB 671.

Sincerely,



Michael Schweitz, MD  
President  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations