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Director

February 25, 2015

Idaho House Health & Welfare Committee  
700 West Jefferson Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
*Sent via email*

**Re: Support of HB 175–Communication: Biosimilar Medications**

Dear Committee Members:

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

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

**As the Idaho House Health and Welfare Committee considers HB 175, CSRO wishes to convey its strong support.** Importantly, the bill provides that “within five (5) business days following the dispensing of a biological product, the dispensing pharmacist or pharmacist’s designee shall communicate to the prescriber the specific product provided to the patient, including the name of the product and the manufacturer.”

We respectfully request you support this legislation which protects patient safety. Physicians must be involved in decisions regarding their patient’s use of a biosimilar. In the best interest of the patient, physicians must be notified in a timely manner whenever a patient’s biologic medicine is substituted.

Sincerely,



Michael Schweitz, MD  
President  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations

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