



200 First Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55905
507-284-2511
mayoclinic.org

March 10, 2021

Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

RE: Increasing Access to Biosimilar (Generic) Pharmaceuticals: HF1516

Dear committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and support on HF 1516 a proposal that will increase access to biosimilar pharmaceuticals and result in lower cost for prescription drug.

- Biologic agents account for 14 of the top 25 highest expenditure drugs in the US including insulin, cancer, inflammatory conditions and immunological diseases.¹
- Many of the biologic drugs have been on the market for multiple decades and have not faced competition that would lead to lower prices.
- Biosimilars are priced significantly lower and have no difference in safety or potency.
- Increasing access to biosimilars and having them function like generic drugs is the fastest and most powerful tool available to reduce costs of prescription drugs.
- HF 1516 will ensure parity of insurance coverage for biosimilar drugs, which will smooth the process for providers ordering biosimilar versions of drugs rather than the branded version.
- Mayo Clinic takes a biosimilar first approach and covers biosimilars at parity for our own health plan.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Tichy

Eric M. Tichy, Pharm.D, M.B.A.
Vice-Chair, Pharmacy Supply Solution
Supply Chain Management Office
Mayo Clinic

Cc: Katherine Johansen, JD, Mayo Clinic Director

1. Tichy EM, Schumock GT, Stubbings J, Hoffman JM, Wiest MD, Suda KJ, Tadrous M, Clark JS, Matusiak LM, Hunkler RJ, Vermeulen LC. National trends in prescription drug expenditures and projections for 2020. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*. 2020 Aug 1;77(15): 1213–1230.