



April 29, 2009

To: United States House of Representatives

Subject: Co-sponsor H.R.1548, the Pathway for Biosimilars Act

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Council of State Bioscience Associations (CSBA), we urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 1548, the Pathway for Biosimilars Act, recently introduced by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA), and Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX). We believe this legislation to create a regulatory pathway for biosimilars will achieve the desired goal of managing the rising cost of healthcare while rigorously protecting patient safety and preserving incentives for innovation in order to ensure that new pioneer biotechnology products continue to reach patients and physicians.

The CSBA is a confederation of autonomous, non-profit trade organizations. The common mission of the members of the CSBA is to promote public understanding, and to advocate for public policies that support the responsible development of the bioscience industry. There are over 40,000 bioscience companies throughout the United States which employ approximately 1.3 million people. The bioscience industry provides high skilled, high wage jobs with an average annual wage that is \$29,000 higher than the average private sector wage¹.

Biologics are complex medicines manufactured using living organisms. They are different and far more complex than most small molecule drugs and include many of the latest breakthrough medical therapies for serious and life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and many serious rare diseases. Any pathway must recognize that an approved biosimilar product would not be the same as a generic drug, because biosimilars may be similar to, but not the same as, the innovator products.

The Pathway for Biosimilars Act recognizes these important differences and creates a pathway for biosimilars that is safe for patients and maintains critical incentives for innovation. For this reason it is our hope that you will co-sponsor this important legislation. We look forward to working with the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and all members of Congress to finalize and pass a balanced, bipartisan follow-on biologics bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

¹ Battelle Memorial Institute. (2008). Technology Talent and Capital: State Bioscience Initiatives 2008.

Arizona BioIndustry Association
BIOCOM (California)
California Healthcare Institute
Southern California Biomedical Council
Colorado BioScience Association
CURE, *The Center of Connecticut's BioScience Cluster*
Delaware BioScience Association
BioFlorida
Georgia Bio
Hawaii Science & Technology Council
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (iBIO®)
Indiana Health Industry Forum
Iowa Biotechnology Association
Kansas Bio
Kentucky BioAlliance
Biotechnology Association of Maine
Tech Council of Maryland/MdBio
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council
MichBio (Michigan)
LifeScience Alley (Minnesota)
Missouri Biotechnology Association
Montana BioScience Alliance
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association
Nevada Biotechnology & Bioscience Consortium
New Hampshire Bio / Medical Council
BioNJ (New Jersey)
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Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute
Virginia Biotechnology Association
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