



MINNESOTA ONCOLOGY

Caring, down to a science.SM

Chair Stephenson
Members of the House Commerce Committee

March 3, 2021

Re: Support for HF 1516 (Schultz) - Pharmacy and provider choice allowed relating to biological product prescription and dispensation, and report required.

Chair Stephenson and Members of the House Commerce Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Minnesota Oncology to ask for your support for HF 1516 (Schultz).

Minnesota Oncology is the largest independent multispecialty oncology practice in MN, with over 90 providers serving in 12 locations across the Twin Cities area. We see over 14,000 new patients annually and 127,000 patient visits per year. Our providers and their treatment decisions make a significant impact on the cancer treatment for many lives within the twin cities community.

Our Medical Oncologists are highly trained physicians who follow precision medicine driven by clinical pathways to identify and select appropriate treatments for our patients, based on their disease and treatment goals.

The cost of cancer treatments continue to rise, and biosimilar medications provide an excellent opportunity to help contain costs while maintaining treatment effectiveness and quality outcomes. Improving access to biosimilars will allow our patients to attain these life-saving treatments more quickly and affordably.

Additionally, current payer policies require clinics to stock multiple biosimilar products in addition to the reference products, which creates additional costs and safety concerns for practices like ours. The risk of a patient receiving the wrong drug increase significantly when clinics are forced to stock multiple products on their shelves. HF 1516 will streamline this process and keep prices down further.

Lastly, clinics and providers are unable to effectively negotiate lower drug prices through the manufacturers, as the products that we are able to use are dictated by the patient's insurance company. Creating more access to biosimilars will allow us to provide our patients with the best treatment for them based on their condition, not based on their insurance company.

MN Oncology respectfully asks that you support HF 1516 so that we can treat patients as effectively and affordably as possible.

Thank you,

