



January 4, 2021

The Honorable Chairman Robin Weisz
The Honorable Vice-chair Karen M. Rohr
North Dakota House Human Services Committee
North Dakota State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

Dear Chairman Weisz, Vice-chair Rohr, and members of the committee,

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization supports HB 1033.

BIO is the world's largest trade association representing over 1,000 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers, such as Bioscience Association of North Dakota, and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations.

In 2013, North Dakota was one of the first states to pass legislation to allow pharmacists to substitute an interchangeable biologic product for the innovator product, with the physician's approval. As passed, the responsibilities of communicating substitution information to the physician could be a time-consuming effort by the pharmacist. In working with pharmacists, physicians, and patient groups across the state, we asked the interim health care committee to amend this requirement resulting in the language that is before the committee today.

HB 1033 presumes that communication between the pharmacist and the prescriber has taken place when the pharmacist enters the substitution information into an electronic records system as outlined in Section 1, paragraph 2d (1). No other steps need to be taken unless an electronic system is not available. Only then would the pharmacist need to contact the prescriber through facsimile or telephone. HB 1033 also extends the time for this meaningful communication to two business days following the dispensing of an interchangeable biologic. We believe this will provide patients, prescribers, and pharmacists a complete medical record of the patient's biologic therapy while not increasing pharmacists' workload.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/

Greg Hoke
Director, State Government Affairs
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)