

April 17, 2015

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: American Medical Association **support for Engrossed Senate Bill 5935**, to ensure appropriate treatment with respect to the prescribing of certain biologic products

Dear Governor Inslee:

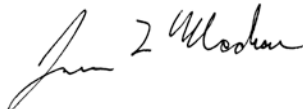
On behalf of the physician and student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing in support of Engrossed Senate Bill (E.S.B.) 5935, which would, among other things, help ensure appropriate treatment while simultaneously ensuring that physicians retain their prescribing autonomy regarding biologic products. Specifically, the AMA supports that if the physician – based on medical research and his or her experience – prefers a specific biologic product for his or her patient, then the physician can ensure appropriate treatment for his or her patient by specifying which product is prescribed. E.S.B. 5935 accomplishes this important choice.

As noted in the bill, biologics comprise a wide range of products, including vaccines, blood and blood components, allergenic extracts, human cells or tissue intended for implantation, transplantation, infusion or transfer into human recipients and more. These represent a complex array of pharmaceutical products, and current state legislation governing generic substitution may not be adequate to address the unique nature of biologics. Due to this complexity, the AMA strongly supports E.S.B. 5935 where it provides that substitution should be limited to only those biosimilar biologic products deemed “interchangeable” by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

For the aforementioned reasons, the AMA urges your signature on E.S.B. 5935. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4954.

Thank you for your efforts on this important public health issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim L. Madara".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Washington State Medical Association