



Arthritis Foundation
1900 W. 75th St, Ste 200
Prairie Village, KS 66208

March 13, 2017

Chair Vicki Schmidt
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Topeka, KS

RE: HB 2107 – Support

Dear Chair Schmidt and members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee:

The Arthritis Foundation strongly encourages you to support HB 2107, which includes provisions allowing for the substitution of biological medications. We are particularly pleased that this bill includes provisions for prescriber communication.

The Arthritis Foundation is the Champion of Yes. Leading the fight for the arthritis community, the Foundation helps conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections. We work on behalf of over 497,000 Kansans (including 2,800 children) who live with the chronic pain of arthritis every day. We continue to raise valuable funds to support research to find better treatments and a cure. We sincerely hope that lending our support for HB 2107 will make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. HB 2107 enhances patient access to new and potentially less costly medication. More importantly, it will ensure that pharmacists are communicating critical and up-to-date medical information to physicians.

With such complex treatment plans as those for chronic diseases, physicians must know which medication their patient is taking in the event that any side effects occur. As such, it is imperative that physicians and patients are aware of the specific biologic dispensed. Not only will this communication maintain an accurate medical record, but it will also allow physicians to closely monitor the care and progress of their patients.

We are proud to advocate on behalf of the over 497,000 men, women, and children with arthritis in Kansas – the number one cause of disability in the U.S. – and ask for your support for HB 2107. Please contact me at mguadalupe@arthritis.org or (773-304-7290) with any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Guadalupe".

Michele Guadalupe, MPH, State Director of Advocacy and Access