

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nancy Davenport-Ennis
Chair Emerita
National Patient Advocate Foundation

F. Marc Stewart, MD
Board President
Professor of Medicine
University of Washington
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Alan J. Balch, PhD
CEO
National Patient Advocate Foundation

Al Benson III, MD, FACP
Board Executive Vice President
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director for Clinical Investigations
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
of Northwestern University

Dennis A. Gastineau, MD
Immediate Past President
Chair, Division of Hematology
Director, Human Cell Therapy Laboratory
Division of Transfusion Medicine & Hematology
Mayo Clinic

Diane Mauk
Board Secretary
Software Architects, LLC

Christopher Boone, PhD, MSHA, FACHE, CPHIMS, PMP
Executive Director
Health Data Consortium

Christian G. Downs, JD, MHA
Executive Director
Association of Community Cancer Centers

Brian Garofalo
Managing Partner
Patient Alliances

John J. Harrington, MBA
Senior Vice President and Clinical Officer
ADVI

Louis Jacques, MD
Associate Dean for Research
Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing
Co-Founder, Intercultural Cancer Council

Lovell A. Jones, PhD
Associate General Counsel
UnitedHealthcare

Andy Miller, MHSE, MCHES
Principal
MillerStephens & Associates

Pearl Moore, RN, MN, FAAN
John L. Murphy
Board Financial Officer
Saguenay Strathmore Capital

Robert M. Rifkin, MD, FACP
Attending Physician
Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers

Lori Williams, PhD, MSN, RN
Assistant Professor
Department of Symptom Research
University of Texas
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charles Balch, MD, FACS
Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Pamela S. Becker, MD, PhD
University of Washington
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
of Northwestern University

David Brizel, MD, FASTRO
Duke University Medical Center

Jean G. Ford, MD
The Brooklyn Hospital Center

Paul J. Martin, MD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
University of Washington

Edith Mitchell, MD, FACP
Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson

Deborah Morosini, MD
Foundation Medicine

March 4, 2016

Senator Carlo Leone, Co-Chair
Representative David Baram, Co-Chair
General Law Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3500
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Senate Bill 313, an Act Concerning Biological Products – Support

Dear Senator Leone and Representative Baram:

The National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) serves as a voice for patients across America in regard to legislation and regulations that will benefit patient rights and needs. This letter is in regard to SB 313, legislation that would permit a pharmacist to fill a prescription for a biological product to select an alternative, interchangeable biological product if the prescriber does not personally indicate to not substitute. Our position on this issue is as follows:

- NPAF recommends that state and federal laws should facilitate patient access to new and innovative medications and therapies that have been approved by the US Food and Drug and Administration.
- NPAF recommends that all decisions for the use of new and innovative medication and therapies be made transparently and with the consent of the patient and provider.
- NPAF recommends that in any transition to a new or alternative medication or therapy, the patient and health provider must be directly informed of the transition and agree to the change.

We believe that biosimilars can improve access and expand treatment options for Connecticut patients with chronic, debilitating, and life-threatening diseases, but we also feel that they must be prescribed and administered with transparency and concurrence. Please consider our position on biosimilars as you deliberate on SB 313.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lorenzo Williams
Coordinator, State Government Relations

cc: Members, General Law Committee