

S 92 Testimony  
Senate Health Committee  
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The Vermont pharmacy groups support efforts by this committee and others to create opportunities for Vermonters to save on their prescription costs. S92 is a necessary step to help achieve that goal in its attempt to ease the utilization of “interchangeable biologics” as defined by the BPCI Act and PHS Act. To that end the Vermont Retail Druggists supports S92. The difficulty we see rests in the requirements for reporting. Given the nature of Biologics and the systemic impact they have on the patients we respect and appreciate the need for high level communication between Prescriber, Pharmacists, and Patient. However, a lack of electronic interfacing and inability of most pharmacists to input into the patient EHR questions the practicality of S92. Essentially, a phone call to request a new prescription is more efficient and less of a time constraint. That said, it would be prudent to create a foundation for Biosimilar Interchangeability in Vermont statute so that we can move forward and respond as more guidance from the FDA is provided. Passage of such will not limit the pharmacists and prescribers to communicate by other means.

The Vermont Retail Druggists would ask that the Senate Health Committee consider adding language to explore how Vermont pharmacists can be more active with and contribute information to the EHR. Such enhanced communication would not only strengthen measures like S92 but also S175. We have always maintained our belief that Data control is one of two cornerstones to an improved healthcare system. Below is suggested language we hope you will consider.

“The Agency of Human Services shall convene a group comprising one representative each from the Green Mountain Care Board, the Department of Vermont Health Access, the Vermont Department of Health, VITL, VHIE, the Vermont Board of Pharmacy, the Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores, the Vermont Pharmacists Association, and the Vermont Retail Druggists to conduct an investigation and report back to the Senate Health Committee, as to the feasibility, potential savings and value of forming partnerships with pharmaceutical service stake-holders, as determined by the committee including but not limited to Wholesale distributors and Pharmacy Claim Switch entities, in an effort to improve lower cost pharmaceutical product selection of, and utilization by Vermonters.”