SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, biosimilars are generic medicines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as "highly similar" to the original biologic medicine such that they work in the same way and have no clinically meaningful difference in safety or efficacy; and

Whereas, biosimilars are approved by the FDA based on the agency's rigorous standards for safety, potency, and purity; and

Whereas, the FDA has approved 24 biosimilars indicated for a wide range of conditions including autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's disease, plaque psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, and certain types of colorectal, lung, breast, and other types of cancers; and

Whereas, biosimilars cost nearly 30% less than the originator biologics, on average, and are estimated to save the U.S. healthcare system as much as $54 billion over the next decade; and

Whereas, the Missouri General Assembly, realizing the importance of biosimilars, passed SB 875 in 2016 to encourage biosimilar utilization throughout the state; and

Whereas, unlike generics, which account for 90% of prescriptions, biosimilars make up only 2% of the U.S. market; and

Whereas, increased use of biosimilars is estimated to save state Medicaid programs between $417 million and $1.2 billion annually, and commercial payers $1.2 to $3.3 billion annually; and

Whereas anti-competitive behaviors, such as contracts that prevent biosimilars from being included on formularies, and misaligned incentives for providers are inhibiting patient access to, and system savings from, biosimilars:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby hold that biosimilar medicines are a critical tool in preventing, treating, and curing disease, as well as lowering spending on specialty medicines; and

Be It Further Resolved that the state of Missouri examine potential savings of enhanced use of biosimilars to its Medicaid and state employee health care programs in order to reduce drug costs; and

Be It Further Resolved that Missouri should evaluate Medicaid and state employee formulary coverage of biosimilars and examine provider reimbursement policies for biosimilars; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to send a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Director of the Division of MO HealthNet, and the Board of Trustees of Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan.