

2015 State Legislative Agenda

I. BIOLOGIC THERAPIES

Educate policymakers on the important role biologic therapies play in treating disease, and explain the new FDA pathway for approving biosimilars (subsequent versions of innovator biologic therapies.)

Support Biosimilars legislation that aligns with the BIO International biosimilar principles.

Substitution of a biosimilars for the innovator biologic product should occur only when the FDA has designated the biosimilar as “interchangeable” with the associated innovator product. Appropriate communication to both physician and patient when a substitution is made should be required.

Additionally, the pharmacist and the physician should keep records of such substitutions.

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAX REFORM

Preserve existing tax exemptions and economic development incentives related to life sciences companies and organizations. Enact new tax policies and incentives to spur company and capital formation, and job growth.

In particular, preserve **sales tax exemptions** on prescription drugs sold, or distributed without charge, to Licensed Healthcare Professionals and Authorized Medical Entities; and on medical products distributed without charge solely for the purposes of clinical trials.

Promote **tax incentives** to support emerging technology companies, including but not limited R&D tax credits to offset losses and tax exemptions on research equipment and manufacturing.

Fund **Invest Georgia** to encourage equity investment in Georgia bioscience and high technology companies.

III. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Increase FY 2015-16 funding levels for college and university life sciences-related research through allocations to the Georgia Research Alliance and the University System of Georgia.

IV. PATIENT ACCESS

As federal health care reform is implemented at the state level, ensure patients’ access to innovative therapies in any modifications to commercial health insurance plans and the State’s Medicaid and state employee health plans. Monitor Medicaid program and oppose reductions in state funding.

Assist healthcare providers in their efforts to improve patient outcomes.

Support modifications to commercial health insurance, Medicaid, and state employee health plans, which promote patient access to adequate provider networks and enhance plan transparency.

V. REGENERATIVE AND REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

Georgia should support the federal regulations governing research and technology applications in regenerative and reproductive medicine.

VI. STEM EDUCATION STANDARDS

Encourage education that enhances economic development and competitiveness, specifically in the life sciences arena. Improve math standards and support Next Generation Science Standards to advance the states' employment pool and close the skills gap in Georgia's workforce.