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February 28, 2014

The Honorable Mike Pence
Office of the Governor
200 W. Washington Street
Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Support: Indiana Senate Bill 262

Dear Governor Pence:

The Global Colon Cancer Association is a global community which enables colorectal cancer (CRC) patient groups worldwide to better serve their communities through sharing information and best practices. As part of that mission, we support efforts to create a safe and transparent pathway by which affordable biosimilar drugs can be accessible to all patients. Biologic medicines offer colon cancer patients new hope because of their ability to battle cancer in ways that other medicines cannot. Because these drugs are very complex and comparatively expensive, the development of safe and effective biosimilars is of great importance to our community. In fact, since the introduction of biologics, the life expectancy of the advanced colon cancer patient has nearly tripled.

Senate Bill 262 establishes safe and reasonable procedures so that biosimilars that the FDA has found to be interchangeable can be substituted for the original biologics. We strongly believe that FDA's review of these complex medicines is essential for patient safety. Additionally, we believe that there should be communication among patients, prescribers, and pharmacists when a substitution takes place.

This legislation is important to the entire cancer community and to patients in many disease categories for whom biologics offer great promise to alleviate suffering and effect recovery. We urge you to sign this bill into law!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Spiegel", is written over a white background.

Andrew Spiegel
Executive Director

Cc:
Brian Neale, Health Policy Director
Sean Keefer, Legislative Director