

April 19, 2006

The Honorable Joseph D. Kenney
Chair, Senate Committee on Executive Departments & Administration
Legislative Office Building
Room 102
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: House Bill 1346 -- Oppose

Dear Senator Kenney:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), I am writing to express our concern with HB 1346, a bill that would make it unlawful to access information related to physician prescribing information from pharmacies.

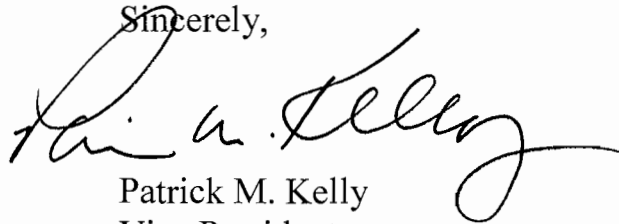
BIO is the national trade association for the biotechnology industry, representing more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and 31 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. We work closely with the **New Hampshire Biotechnology Council** and the industry and educational members they represent.

Our primary concern with HB 1346 is that it will have a direct impact on many of our member companies. Our companies, most of which do not have products on the market, rely on a variety of information when conducting research. Prescribing data, collected under strict American Medical Association (AMA) confidentiality guidelines, enables small biotech companies to review and target their research towards specific therapeutic categories. Without patient population and usage data, biotechnology companies would have a very difficult time raising venture capital - the lifeblood of the biotechnology industry.

We support legislative efforts to protect and preserve patient confidentiality. However measures that restrict disclosure of physician prescribing data could severely hinder medical research, and potentially jeopardizes the state's ability to promote and grow the biotechnology (including life sciences, biosciences and medical sciences) industry in New Hampshire.

We strongly encourage the Senate Committee on Executive Departments and Administration to oppose HB 1346. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 962-9200.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Kelly
Vice President
State Government Relations
Biotechnology Industry Organization

cc: Senator Robert B. Flanders
Senator John S. Barnes, Jr.
Senator Sylvia B. Larsen
Senator Robert K. Boyce
Senator Martha Fuller Clark