

May 15, 2006

The Honorable Jeb Bush
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Florida House Bill 371 - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Bush:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) in support of Florida House Bill 371. This legislation, currently pending your approval, contains provisions to create the Cancer Drug Donation Program as well as establishing pedigree requirements for all prescription drugs distributed in the state. BIO feels this is an important piece of legislation that both improves and protects the health of Florida citizens as well as giving drug manufacturers and distributors, including many biotechnology companies, a workable solution to protect the state's drug supply from counterfeit drugs.

BIO represents more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations in all 50 U.S. States and 33 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of health care, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. In Florida we work closely with BioFlorida to represent the state's rapidly growing bioscience industry.

We are acutely aware of the potential for counterfeit drugs to enter the drug distribution system. Several of our member companies have reported incidents of counterfeit or adulterated versions of their drugs being discovered. House Bill 371 would implement a pedigree system that would mitigate the potential for counterfeit drugs to enter into the drug distribution chain in Florida. This is legislation that can be implemented immediately and does not require the adoption of unproven or not-yet-available technologies.

BIO is supportive of implementing and maintaining harmonized electronic pedigree standards. We submitted testimony at an Anti-Counterfeit Drug Initiative Workshop sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) earlier this year. (A copy of BIO's testimony can be found on the BIO website at: www.bio.org/reg/20060208.pdf)

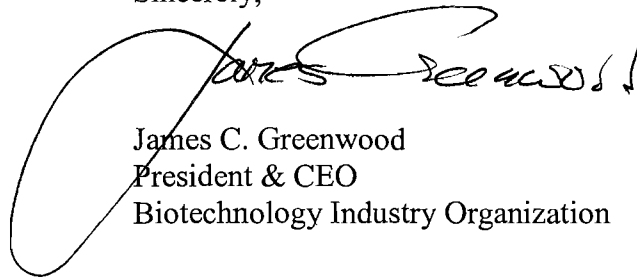
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There is currently no single technological solution available to implement a comprehensive electronic pedigree system. There are a number of track and trace technologies currently under development. These technologies, once perfected, will offer industry a multiplicity of product-appropriate approaches to further securing the drug supply chain.

House Bill 371 provides the State of Florida with an effective solution to establish direct purchase certification of prescription drugs. It will also ensure uninterrupted access to a secure drug distribution system that provides thousands of Florida citizens access to the prescription drugs they need.

Thank you for considering our position on this important legislation. This legislation strikes an appropriate balance between protecting the drug supply from counterfeit drugs and imposing a product pedigree system that can be immediately adopted by manufactures and distributors without disruption of the distribution system. Please support House Bill 371.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Greenwood", is written over a large, loopy scribble that extends to the left and bottom of the signature area.

James C. Greenwood
President & CEO
Biotechnology Industry Organization