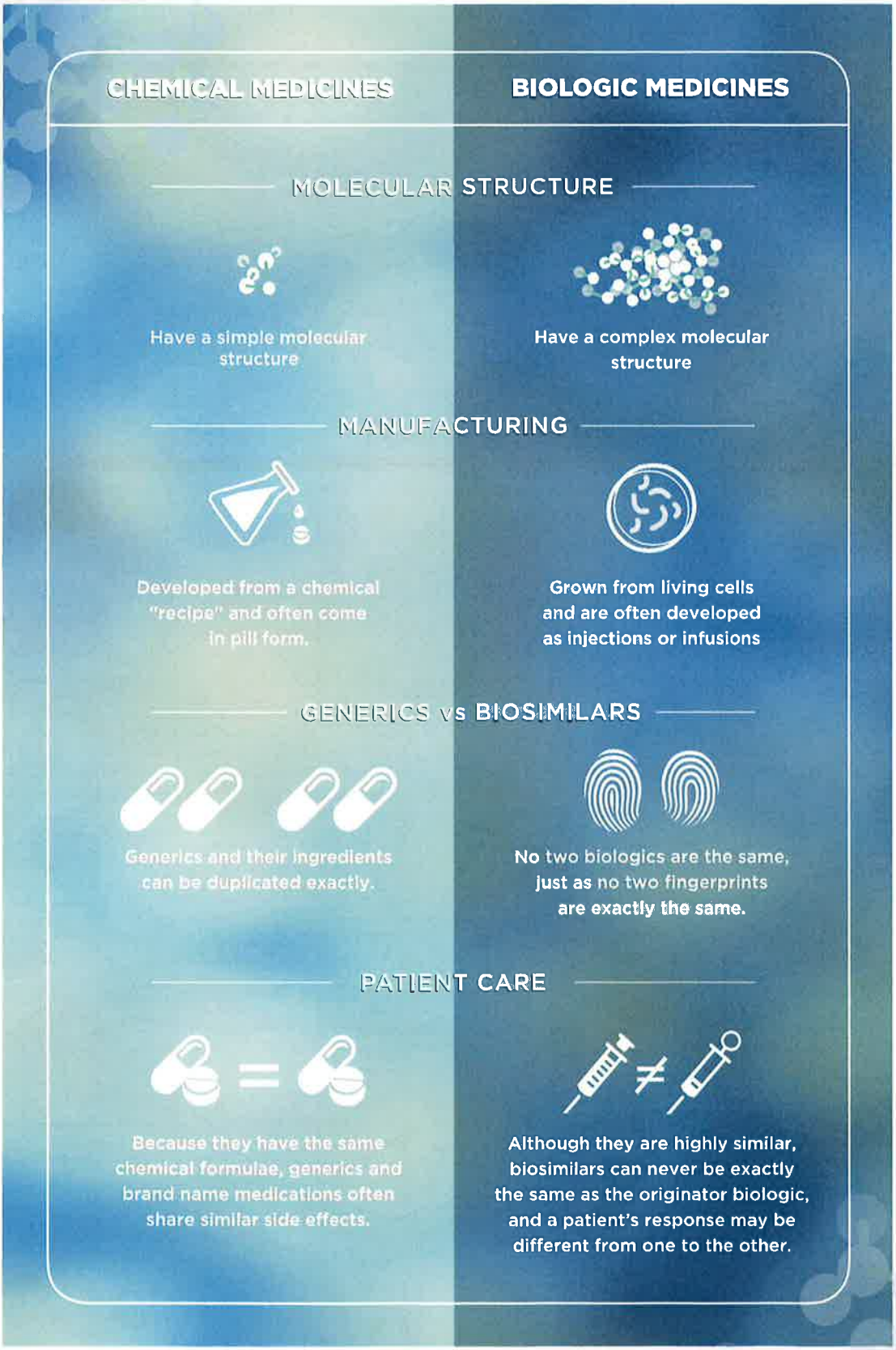
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

ATTACHMENT 1

UNDERSTANDING BIOLOGIC AND BIOSIMILAR MEDICINES

Biologic medicines have ushered in a new era of medical care where we are able to not only treat the symptoms of chronic conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and cancer, but also the source. With the development of biosimilars, treatment options for patients have the potential to expand considerably. To understand the differences between biologics, biosimilars and chemical medicines and what those differences mean for patient care, please read the below.



WHY H483 MATTERS

- Because interchangeable biologics and biosimilars will never be exactly the same, a patient may react differently to both. In case of an adverse event, doctors should know exactly what drug is dispensed to their patients at the pharmacy.
- H483 grants patients and prescribers access to interchangeable biological drug products, opening the doors for new treatment options in Idaho.
- H483 requires that within 5 business days after dispensing, the pharmacist shall communicate to the prescriber the specific biological drug product dispensed.