



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### 1 Resolution Supporting Equity and Access to Healthcare with Affordable Treatment 2 Options

3 **WHEREAS**, health and wellness are complex, and social determinants of health, including societal and  
4 economic opportunities, the resources and support we have in our homes and communities, the quality of  
5 our education and housing, and even our interactions with others, play a role, and

6 **WHEREAS**, the conditions in which we live and our economic stability can explain why some  
7 Americans are healthier than others, contributing to health disparities among some groups, and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death<sup>1</sup>, and the rate of death was  
9 highest among African American and Native American or Alaska Native persons, in part because  
10 members of these racial and ethnic groups are more likely to encounter barriers to getting care, including  
11 lack of health insurance and access to important medicines they need<sup>2</sup>, and

12 **WHEREAS**, a recent study shows that African Americans in the U.S. have the highest death rate and  
13 lowest survival rate of any racial or ethnic group for most cancers<sup>3</sup>, and

14 **WHEREAS**, data demonstrates that increased access to affordable generic and biosimilar medicines can  
15 be a major part of the solution to help break down some barriers and support patients in maintaining their  
16 health, and

17 **WHEREAS**, generic treatments are available for a wide range of diseases and disorders and can reduce  
18 patients' out-of-pocket costs, which in turn can enable them to stay on their critical medicines, and

19 **WHEREAS**, biosimilars are FDA-approved biologic medicines that are as safe and effective as the  
20 reference biologic<sup>4</sup> and provide an opportunity to expand access and generate savings for patients in the  
21 U.S., and

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<sup>1</sup> Provisional Mortality Data — United States, 2020

Weekly / April 9, 2021 / 70(14);519–522 [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7014e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7014e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7014e1.htm?s_cid=mm7014e1_w)

<sup>2</sup> Coronavirus infection by race: What's behind the health disparities? <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/expert-answers/coronavirus-infection-by-race/faq-20488802>

<sup>3</sup> CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians: Cancer statistics for African Americans, 2019

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First published: 14 February 2019 <https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21555>

<sup>4</sup> Biosimilar and Interchangeable Biologics: More Treatment Choices, U.S. Food & Drug Administration,  
<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/biosimilar-and-interchangeable-biologics-more-treatment-choices>



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22 **WHEREAS**, supporting comprehensive education and awareness efforts about treatment options will go  
23 a long way to reduce inequities and empower patients to make the best decisions based on their  
24 healthcare needs, and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Advancing Education on Biosimilars Act<sup>5</sup>, which aims to improve patient and provider  
26 awareness of the benefits of biosimilars received bipartisan approval by Congress,

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association  
28 (NLGA) recognizes the importance of equity in healthcare and the urgent need for increased access to  
29 affordable treatment options for all patients.

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports continued education and increased awareness  
31 for care providers, patients, and caregivers, on available solutions to more affordable treatment options  
32 for patients, including generic and biosimilar medicines.

ADOPTED, this day, the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021.

Sponsors: Secretary of State Ed Buchanan (R – Wyoming), Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Governor Josh Green (D – Hawaii), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D – Colorado), Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford (R – Maryland)

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<sup>5</sup> Public Law No: 117-8 (04/23/2021), “Advancing Education on Biosimilars Act of 2021” <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/164/text>