

February 6, 2014

Dear Madame Chairwoman and Committee Members,

Re: S.236 An act relating to prescription refill synchronization

Previously on February 5th, I had testified to the pharmacist's view of this simple but important piece of legislation. Please accept some additional comments:

A legislative solution is the only practical solution. While BCBSVT/ESI and MVP provide a significant amount of commercial insurance in Vermont, the vast majority of prescriptions are covered by Medicare Part D for our elderly and disabled patients. Without a legislative solution then there will be no efforts by the Part D plans to make this adjustment.

For working Vermonters, refill synchronization for the majority of these patients is more about convenience. However for our elderly and disabled, refill synchronization is a necessity that will increase medicine adherence. This can prevent admissions and readmissions to both hospitals and nursing homes. It may also cut down on the need for visiting nurses to help patients manage their medications. But these benefits will only happen if there is a legislative solution.

S.236 as a legislation solution to a common scenario will help patients, pharmacists, insurers, the Blue Print for Health, and other public health initiatives.

Sincerely,

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