



The Honorable Claire Ayer
 Chair
 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
 Vermont State House
 Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

The Honorable Virginia Lyons
 Vice Chair
 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
 Vermont State House
 Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

Dear Senators Ayer and Lyons,

The undersigned organizations urge you to support SB 236, which allows for patients with chronic conditions to have their medications synchronized. This is important to stroke survivors and people living with cancer, diabetes, MS and chronic pain, among others, for many reasons.

All of these conditions are considered chronic. While living with each condition is a different journey, they all have some things in common. One is a frequent need for multiple medications. Another is difficulty in completing tasks that would otherwise seem routine—like traveling to the pharmacy.

There are many reasons why a simple trip to the pharmacy is an added burden for people with these conditions. Some people can't drive due to mobility issues. This makes a trip anywhere outside the household time consuming and physically demanding. Often times, a spouse becomes a part-time caregiver. That frequently means taking on more of the household responsibilities while working full-time. Removing a few trips to the pharmacy from the caregiver's "to do" list may seem small, but in a world where you spend every minute either at work or caring for your spouse, that time is precious. Examples like these are why this policy change would be so beneficial for residents of your state living with chronic conditions, such as stroke, cancer, diabetes, MS and chronic pain.

We not only represent patients with these chronic conditions, but the caregivers, family members and loved ones they rely on for care and support. On behalf of the stroke, cancer, diabetes, MS and chronic pain communities, among others, we urge you to vote for SB 236. This simple change can make a world of difference for people who face too many challenges already in their daily lives.

Sincerely,

National Stroke Association
 American Lung Association, Vermont
 American Liver Foundation, New England Division
 Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, New England Region
 Lupus Foundation of New England
 US Pain Foundation
 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter

cc: Senator Ann Cummings, Senator Dick McCormack, Senator Anthony Pollina