

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

**55 Day Lane,**

**Williston, Vermont 05495**

**[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)**



*“The ultimate conquest of cancer is as much a matter of public policy as it is a scientific and medical challenge.”*

**John R. Seffrin, PhD**

**Chief Executive Officer of ACS CAN**

To the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), I am writing the Committee to express our support for the intent of [S.236](#), the Pharmacy Refill Synchronization bill.

ACS CAN, which is the advocacy arm of the American Cancer Society, is focused on the needs of cancer patients and ensuring that people have access to the care they need to prevent, detect and fight cancer and to maximize the quality of their lives. Cancer diagnoses quite often require multiple prescriptions, not only to deal with chronic conditions, but also to help manage pain and other uncomfortable side effects related to treatment. Medication synchronization could be a critical tool in improving the quality of life for cancer patients by streamlining this process into one monthly pharmacy visit.

For cancer patients, multiple drug copays can also be a significant barrier to access, therefore we would urge you to adopt a method to prorate the copays in the cases where partial fills or less than a 30-day supply are required. I understand the committee is seeking a non-legislative solution for medication synchronization and that the committee has asked insurers to provide a letter stating their intent to implement medication synchronization, their plan for notification to consumers, providers, and pharmacists, and how they plan to address dispensing fees. ACS CAN kindly requests that if the committee does not pursue a legislative solution, that insurers also address a method to prorate copays in their response to the committee.

4,200 Vermonters will be diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and approximately 35,000 Vermont residents are living with a current or previous diagnosis of cancer. Please do not make it harder for Vermont cancer patients to fight their chronic condition.

Thank you for considering this request. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

With regards,

Jill Sudhoff-Guerin

**Vermont Director of Government Relations and Advocacy for the American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network**