

Jeff Hochberg
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Testimony House Gov Ops Committee

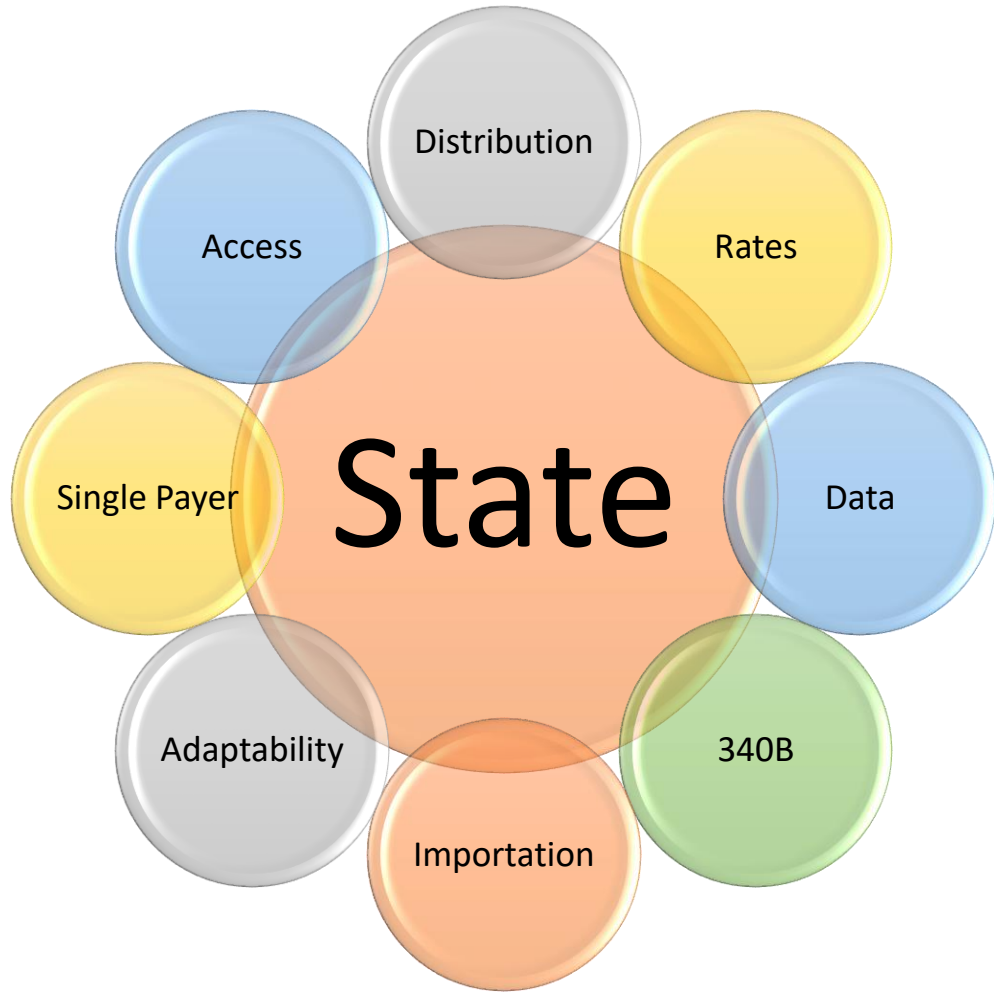
Re: Proposed amendment to 26 V.S.A. chapter 36, subchapter 4 ***Pharmacy***;

Greetings Representative(s);

We fully support the initiative and wording of the proposed language that is before the committee. The language very clearly identifies and discourages practices that have existed for too long in the industry and we applaud OPR's efforts to rein them in and hold entities accountable. Licensed entities involved in pharmacy should ALWAYS employ practices that focus on public safety above all else. Clearly, some entities put business and/or financial matters above all others to such an extent that such measures are necessary.

My decades of experience have taught me that I should always ask myself, "what comes next, how will they respond?" The "they", I refer to being the TOO large corporate entities that control pharmacy as we know it. These entities operate on multiple layers of business (arguably anticompetitively) and thereby can affect the industry in numerous ways and are not necessarily under the jurisdiction of the OPR, or any regulatory body. The reality is that these multilayered entities manipulate statutory language for self-benefit within contract language, which in turn ultimately hinders patient ACCESS and "continuity of care."

The pharmacy industry is spread out under too many jurisdictions, framed by too many statutory titles, and under regulated. I would ask the Committee to also consider language that seeks to rewrite the model to such an extent that control is handed back to local, Vermont entities like the OPR, who are focused on patient safety, and maximizing patient access to care. Interestingly, such concepts have the possibility of reducing COSTs as well!



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