

Testimony Jeff Hochberg  
Senate Health and Welfare

4/10/2024

Honorable Chair Lyons and Distinguished Senators of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak regarding H 233 now before the committee. Our group strongly encourages the committee to approve H 233 for passage. Empowering DFR with the necessary resources to effectively enforce the laws relating to Prescription Drugs and Pharmacy Benefit Managers is crucial to the future affordability and sustainability of the Vermont Healthcare delivery system.

One area of additional concern we have is in the application of price appeal and transparency laws to ALL types of drugs. We are finding that PBMs are often circumventing required disclosures for Brand Name and Biosimilar drugs. We suggest amending the definition of "Maximum Allowable Costs" in the statutes and identified in H 233 to be more inclusive. See below:

Cited as the new 18 VSA 3602

(6) "Maximum allowable cost" means the per unit drug product reimbursement amount, excluding dispensing fees, for a group of equivalent **multisource** Prescription Drugs. Prescription drugs shall have the same meaning as 21 U.S.C. § 321.

Thank you again for the Committee's time. We are encouraged that the steps taken this session will greatly improve the healthcare delivery system of the State.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hochberg  
Director of Rutland Pharmacy Group