

February 17, 2015

RE: **HB2176 Prescription Synchronization**

Dear Representative Schwab,

The undersigned organizations **urge you to support HB 2176**, which allows for patients with chronic conditions to have their medications synchronized, or refilled at the same time. This is important to people who suffer from heart disease, stroke, cancer, arthritis, epilepsy, and chronic pain, among others, for many reasons.

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 or family member 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 or family member, that time is precious. Examples like these are why this policy change would be so beneficial for residents of Kansas living with chronic conditions.

**When patients or caregivers can't get to the pharmacy, patients don't take their medications, which leads to poor medication adherence.** In a recent Medication Synchronization Study published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association in Nov/Dec 2013, medication synchronization increased patient adherence by 30%. Better adherence leads to improved health and lower healthcare costs.

Medicare Part D has also made changes to allow Medication Synchronization. Beginning in 2014, CMS took a meaningful step forward in its commitment to improving medication adherence by making it easier for patients to have their prescription medications "synchronized," or refilled all at the same time. By coordinating all of a patient's medications to be refilled on the same day each month, pharmacists are able to prevent gaps in therapy and look for cost-saving alternatives, both of which can improve adherence.

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 heart, stroke, cancer, arthritis, epilepsy, and chronic pain communities, among others, we urge you to vote for HB 2176.

This simple change can make a world of difference for people who face too many challenges already in their daily lives.

***National Stroke Association-Stroke Advocacy Network · American Lung Association · American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network-Kansas · American Stroke Foundation-Kansas · American Academy of Pain Management-Kansas · Arthritis Foundation · National Patient Advocate Foundation***



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