



Oppose House Bill 2176

House Insurance Committee
February 18, 2015

Submitted by Allyson Blandford, Sr. Manager, State Government Affairs

Chairman Schwab and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2176. We respectfully oppose the measure.

Express Scripts is the nation's largest pharmacy benefits manager or PBM. We improve health outcomes by making the use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable. Express Scripts administers pharmacy benefits for Kansas employers, health plans, labor unions, Medicare beneficiaries, and TRICARE, the health plan for active-duty military, retired military and their dependents. Express Scripts helps our clients manage prescription drug spending through proven tools and techniques, including the use of formularies, retail networks, generic drugs, mail order and through our specialty pharmacy services.

We appreciate the opportunity to raise concerns with House Bill 2176. The legislation seeks to improve medication adherence for patients on multiple prescriptions. Express Scripts fully supports current methods used to help patients adhere to their medication therapies and prevent unnecessary illnesses or hospitalizations due to poor adherence. Our current programs offer solutions without the need for legislation.

Medication synchronization may work for patients who use retail pharmacies to fill their prescriptions and want multiple orders completed at the same time, whether it is a full or partial order. However this type of program does not work for patients who cannot afford to pay for all prescriptions at the same time. Patients on specialty medications often need more frequent monitoring and advanced counseling.

Current delivery methods such as mail order and auto-refill programs serve to help patients stay adherent to their therapy. Express Scripts also reaches out to members by email or phone to remind them of upcoming refills so they do not miss an order. Our mobile app also has features to alert members when refills are due and provides an easy method to place their order.

House Bill 2176 mandates plan sponsors provide coverage for medication synchronization fills without adjusting the dispensing fees paid to the pharmacy owner. For each prescription filled, whether fully or partially, the plan sponsor must provide a full dispensing fee to the pharmacy. This practice will increase costs to plan sponsors and will have fiscal impacts to state-funded health plans.

Consumers have not shown a need or desire to implement such a program, nor has a program like this proven to be cost-effective. There are current processes in place if a patient requests an early refill for vacation travel or other similar circumstances.

It is for these reasons we respectfully oppose HB 2176. If you have questions, please contact me at 317-768-7078 or Larrie Ann Brown at 785-233-0016. Thank you.