



April 23, 2018

The Honorable Joseph McNamara, Chair  
Honorable Co-Chairs and Members  
House Health, Education and Welfare Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Opposition to HB 8075 – Medication Synchronization Policy Changes**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA), I am writing to you regarding HB 8075 (medication synchronization). PCMA is the national association representing pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which administer prescription drug plans for more than 266 million Americans with health coverage provided through large and small employers, health insurance plans, labor unions, state and federal employee-benefit plans, and government programs. We are writing in opposition to HB 8075 because it changes a recently-enacted policy that was supported by a broad group of stakeholders during the 2016 legislative session.

The practice of medication synchronization allows a pharmacist, if they believe it to be in the best interest of the patient, to dispense all of a patient's prescription drugs on the same refill cycle. All new prescriptions would be filled initially on a partial basis until they are synchronized with the existing medications, allowing all of a patient's prescription drugs to be dispensed on the same day throughout the year. For patients suffering from chronic illnesses, medication synchronization may be a useful tool to promote long-term medication adherence.

As such, during the 2016 session, stakeholders from pharmacy benefit manager, health plan and community pharmacy groups came together to support SB 2822 by Senator Goldin, codifying standards for all medication synchronization programs in the state of Rhode Island. This bill became effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, and has been helpful to Rhode Island patients, making medication synchronization available while preserving safety guardrails in the health plan benefit. The stakeholder discussion and compromises would be undone under this bill.

For these reasons, PCMA asks you to withdraw HB 8075 from consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions about our position. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "April C. Alexander".

April C. Alexander  
Assistant Vice President, State Affairs