



OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE
211 Commerce Drive
Medina, Ohio 44256-1398
(330) 725-2340

www.discountdrugmart.com
The Stores That Save **YOU** The Runaround!

October 19, 2015

Senator Dave Burke
Chair
Senate Medicaid Committee
1 Capitol Square- ground floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Burke:

We write this letter to express **our interest and support for Ohio House Bill 116**. We believe HB 116 will have far-reaching effects at improving the health of Ohioans by improving their adherence to prescribed medications through medication synchronization.

At Discount Drug Mart- we know the value of medication synchronization (or med synch). We began offering med synch to our Medicare Part D patients in 2014. The **results have been overwhelmingly positive**. The lack of adherence to prescription medicines costs the U.S. healthcare system more than \$290 billion each and every year according to some estimates.

House Bill 116 will allow patients to **choose** (in cooperation with their physician and pharmacist) to have their medications aligned and refilled on the same day each month- and to ensure adequate coverage by their health plan. Specifically- HB 116 will require commercial plans and Medicaid (similar to Medicare Part D plans) to provide coverage of partial refills or "short fills" in order to allow the synchronization of medications.

We have worked closely with the bill's sponsors- Representatives Tim Brown and Tim Ginter. We thank them for their leadership and effort on this important piece of legislation. Discount Drug Mart believes that Ohio House Bill 116 is a simple and much needed **solution to the growing challenge** of a lack of patient adherence to prescribed medications.

Discount Drug Mart is a family run Ohio company with 73 stores and pharmacies throughout Ohio. Out stores and pharmacies employ more than 3,700 Ohioans including more than 225 pharmacists. Discount Drug Mart ranks in the Top 50 among pharmacy chains in North America based on 2014 sales volume.

We thank you for your work on HB 116. We thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Respectfully-

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SF", is positioned below the closing salutation.

Steve Ferris
Government & Public Affairs Director