



**American Pharmacists Association**<sup>®</sup>  
Improving medication use. Advancing patient care.

October 21, 2015

Senator Dave Burke, Chair  
Ohio Senate Medicaid Committee  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Letter of Support for H.B. 116**

Dear Senator:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) writes today in support of H.B. 116. This legislation supports the process of medication synchronization, a tool that pharmacists can use to improve medication adherence, ideally as part of a comprehensive Medication Therapy Management (MTM) plan. APhA, founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents more than 62,000 pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in improving medication use and advancing patient care. APhA members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, physician office practices, managed care organizations, hospice settings and the uniformed services.

Medication synchronization is a valuable service offered by pharmacists for patients living with chronic conditions that require complex medication regimens. Medication synchronization allows for maintenance medications to be filled or refilled at the same time on a regular interval. Patients often fill new prescriptions on or around the day they are prescribed rather than when they refill current prescriptions. Variability in refill dates is often heightened by the number of providers a patient sees and/or the number of medications prescribed. Medication synchronization can help put patients back on track with their treatment regimen by syncing the refill dates for medications. Medication synchronization reduces costs and burdens on patients living with chronic health conditions, largely the elderly, by reducing the number of times they must visit the pharmacy to pick up medications throughout the month.

Notably, medication synchronization is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) within the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program. CMS also recognizes the intricacies of managing complex medication regimens for patients living with multiple chronic conditions and therefore offers coverage for MTM services. We believe that effective medication synchronization involves the technical component of refill timing and prorated billing, and is enhanced by the clinical component, which includes services such as

comprehensive medication reviews, adherence barrier identification and corrective action, and counseling.

APhA urges the support of H.B. 116 due to its benefit to Ohioans and the health care system as a whole. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jillanne Schulte, JD at [jschulte@aphanet.org](mailto:jschulte@aphanet.org) or (202) 429-7538.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. Menighan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Thomas E. Menighan, BSPHarm, MBA, ScD (Hon), FAPhA  
Executive Vice President and CEO

cc: Stacie Maass, BSPHarm, JD, Senior Vice President, Pharmacy Practice and Government Affairs