

New York State Coalition

Statement of Support: S5196-A (Lanza) / A4306-A (Quart)

Provides for the insurance coverage of the synchronization of multiple prescriptions and dispensing fee standardization.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that damages and eventually destroys brain cells, leading to memory loss and changes in thinking and other brain functions. While there are no treatments to alter the progression, there are many medications available to help manage the symptoms. The majority of individuals with Alzheimer's also have co-occurring chronic conditions, further complicating their prescription medication needs.

Medication synchronization provides a system so patients do not miss their needed medications, while only one refill is needed each month for all medicines. Patients pay co-pays proportional to what is filled, so patients do not need to face full month co-pay charges for partial refills. This bill also provides that pharmacies are still due their standard dispensing fee, regardless of the size of the fill. Medication synchronization has proven successful and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services now allows for medications to be synchronized for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

This legislation will ease caregivers' lives, too, in minimizing their time fetching their loved ones' medications. Those with Alzheimer's and related dementias are typically unable to drive, and must rely on their caregivers to travel to and from the pharmacy. Reducing the trips to the pharmacy reduces an unnecessary caregiver burden. Studies show that reduced caregiver burden, and increased caregiver support, not only allows individuals with Alzheimer's to live at home longer but supports the health and well-being of caregivers, as well.

The Alzheimer's Association, New York State Coalition supports medication synchronization to support proper medication adherence, while minimizing caregiver stress. **The Coalition urges swift passage of this legislation.**

About the Coalition

The Alzheimer's Association, New York State Coalition ("Coalition") is the leading statewide organization advocating for all New Yorkers affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. To achieve this mission, we advance public policy, increase concern and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the services available through the Alzheimer's Association, and provide and enhance care and support.

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