

Vote "NO" on SB 93B and Refer to Ways & Means

There is a big difference between SB 93A and SB 93B

SB 93A is worth supporting. SB 93B is not.



What's the difference?

SB 93A requires payment to *retail* pharmacies to dispense up to a 90-day supply of generic drugs for which a person has been on for 90 days (excluding Schedule II narcotics).

- ✓ strikes an appropriate balance between the convenience of obtaining a larger supply of drugs from retail pharmacies and managing the cost of expensive specialty drugs and patient use/safety.
- ✓ Many health plans already provide long-term medications through mail-service pharmacies, because they provide dramatically more cost-efficient services.

SB 93B requires payment to *retail* pharmacies to dispense up to a 90-day supply of nearly all drugs for which a person has been on for just 30 days, including high-cost specialty drugs that require special handling and intensive clinical management (excluding Schedule II narcotics).

Problems with SB 93B:

1. Thwarts the balance of patient protection and cost containment achieved in SB 93A.
2. Increases health care costs, including for school districts.
3. Includes specialty drugs like Solvadi (Hepatitis C treatment) – often several thousand dollars per month – for the treatment of complex conditions. These drugs often require special handling and careful clinical management of side effects, and they are provided through Specialty Pharmacies, which offer both lower costs and patient services not typically available from retail pharmacies.
4. 90-day Supplies Do Not Fix Supply Chain Issues in Natural Disasters:
 - Does nothing to establish a reserve of prescription supplies for patients.
 - Having larger amounts of drugs requiring refrigeration just means more waste in event of a power outage.
 - When disruptions occur, the same portion of prescriptions will be at or near a refill date, whether they are 30- or 90-day supplies.
 - In the event of a natural disaster that impacts roads and bridges, retail pharmacy supply shipments from wholesalers are likely to be interrupted, thus impacting patient ability to get their medications.

SB 93 B is opposed by a broad coalition of insurers, school districts, pharmacy benefit managers and business organizations. We urge your "NO" vote.

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