



House Insurance Committee
Testimony Re: HB 2176
Presented by Dale Masten
on behalf of
Genoa Healthcare
February 18, 2015

Mister Chairman, Members of the House Health Insurance Committee. My name is Dale Masten and on behalf of Genoa, a QoL Healthcare Company (Genoa), I am asking for your support of House Bill 2176, the Medication Synchronization Bill. Due to the consumer population that we serve, this bill is especially important to our ten pharmacies that operate in Kansas.

Genoa builds on-site full-service pharmacies for the Mental Health Community. We understand the unique and special needs of the severe and persistent mentally ill (SPMI) population. Our pharmacies offer full service, confidential and discrete pharmacy services to our consumers, and present a convenience for filling prescriptions. Genoa pharmacies have very low rates of unclaimed prescriptions, resulting in higher compliance and lower overall healthcare costs. Genoa also specializes in helping consumers apply for Patient Assistance Programs, manage the dispensing and inventory of samples, helping complete prior authorizations, and utilizing the most cost effective mental health drug, clozapine. This list of services and benefits offered by Genoa Healthcare is not at all comprehensive, it just scratches the surface. Furthermore, since our pharmacies are located within mental health clinics, we believe we offer a good model for behavioral health care homes.

House Bill 2176 will allow Genoa to continue offering medication synchronization services by helping ensure proper payment. The bill prohibits a health insurance company from paying a prorated dispensing fee to the pharmacy. The cost to fill a prescription is the same, regardless of the number of pills dispensed. The bill also allows for the proration of copayments. Our patients often cannot work and this permits them to receive a lesser days supply without paying a full copayment. For example, this allows them to pay half a copayment for a 15 day supply of medication.

Medication synchronization is very important within the mental health community. Our consumers often don't have dependable modes of transportation and often rely on public transportation. Therefore providing the opportunity to pick up all their medications, both primary and behavioral at one time helps ensure higher adherence.

Adherence within the mental health community is imperative. Studies within the population living with Schizophrenia shows that a one day gap in therapy increases the risk of hospitalization by 50 percent. Hospital stays for Schizophrenia can cost between \$16,000 and \$22,000 per stay.

Mister Chairman, Member of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important piece of legislation. I respectfully ask for your support for House Bill 2176.