



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

Honorable Representative Prusak, chair
Honorable Representative Hayden, vice-chair
Honorable Representative Salinas, vice-chair
House Committee on Health Care

RE: Support Senate Bill 764

Chairs Prusak, Hayden, Salinas, committee members,

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports Senate Bill 764 which will restrict generic and brand name drug manufacturer's ability to enter into pay-for-delay agreements. SB 764 will help preserve access to affordable prescription drugs and be of great benefit to people living with a chronic disease like MS.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system that typically is diagnosed in young adulthood. MS is a puzzling and unpredictable disease that varies widely in its impact, not only from person to person, but also in the same individual at different times. People living with MS are frequent users of the health care system and depend on ongoing medical care and treatment with prescription medications to maintain their health and quality of life.

Early and ongoing treatment with a disease-modifying therapy (DMT) is the best way to modify the course of MS, prevent accumulation of disability, and protect the brain from damage due to the disease. However, the median price for brand MS DMTs continues to increase – in 2019 it is \$88,853. Increased prescription drug spending accounted for 89% of the increase in total spending for people with MS between 2012- 2015. Among individuals in employer plans, a person with MS spends 3 times as much out-of-pocket as the average person. The 2019 price increases for five of the MS medications are higher than the rate of medical inflation—including a drug that has been on the market for more than 25 years.

Current pay-for-delay agreements keep drug prices high and delay lower cost drugs coming to market. This practice significantly drives up the costs of prescription drugs and could put life-saving drugs, like those to treat MS, out of reach. **The National Multiple Sclerosis Society strongly supports SB 764 and urges an "YES" vote** in the House Committee on Health Care.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seth Greiner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Seth Greiner
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