



June 6, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
State Capitol Room 207
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

On behalf of the physician members of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), I strongly urge you to sign Senate Bill 3170 into law. Senate Bill 3170 amends the *Pharmacy Practice Act* and the *Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act* to allow a prescription for medication other than controlled substances to be valid for up to 15 months from the date issued for the purpose of refills, unless the prescription states otherwise.

Many patients only visit their physicians once a year, which is an appropriate and convenient time to review and update prescriptions and secure refills. But unless patients adhere to a strict schedule of seeing their physician every 12 months, many are likely to run out of their maintenance prescription medications before they are able to schedule their next visit. House Bill 3170 helps reduce the need for multiple calls between patients, physicians and pharmacies to secure additional refills for a few months until the patient's next office visit.

Senate Bill 3170 does not apply to prescriptions for controlled substances, and physicians would still be permitted to limit the number of and/or timeframe during which refills would be available to patients. Extending the prescription refill period for non-controlled substances from 12 to 15 months facilitates patient access to necessary medications while still ensuring at least annual communication between patients and physicians regarding the continued appropriateness of maintenance medications.

House Bill 3170 passed both chambers unanimously.

On behalf of the physicians of Illinois and our patients, ISMS respectfully asks that you sign Senate Bill 3170 into law.

Sincerely

Richard C. Anderson, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees

cc: Katherine M. Tynus, M.D.
Paul E. Pedersen, M.D.
Alexander R. Lerner