

January-February 2019

Volume X

Issue I

Edited by Andrew Cartmell

Vermont News

VPA Spring Meeting is March 17th

The Spring VPA meeting will be held this year at Trader Duke's on March 17th from 8am to 3pm.

This year's meeting will feature 5 hours of APhA certified continuing education credits including programs on opioids and immunization that are required for licensure renewal.

For tickets, more information and a program of the day's events, please visit [the VPA website](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Vermont
Pharmacists
Day at the
Vermont House
of Reps**

On January 25th, the

State of Vermont
House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 25

House concurrent resolution designating January 25, 2019 as Vermont Pharmacists Day at the State House

Offered by: Representative Patt of Worcester

Whereas, the health of our citizens makes Vermont a great place to live, and

Whereas, despite access to healthcare, Vermonters still struggle with the high cost of insurance, and

Whereas, Vermont seeks innovative health reforms to allow its citizenry to remain healthy and insurance to remain affordable, and

Whereas, the State anticipates a growing need for midlevel healthcare providers, and pharmacists remain the most accessible healthcare providers, and

Whereas, the current entry-level doctoral degree required to qualify as a licensed Vermont pharmacist far exceeds the educational requirements of current midlevel providers, and

Whereas, a Department of Vermont Health Access pilot project documented that when community pharmacists are authorized to practice as midlevel providers they can improve blood sugars and help lower both blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and

Whereas, 21st-century pharmacists are trained and prepared to keep Vermont one of the healthiest states in the nation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 25, 2019 as Vermont Pharmacists Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Pharmacists Association.


Mitzi Johnson
Speaker of the House

David Zuckerman
President of the Senate

Attested to:


William M. McGill
Clerk, House of Representatives



Vermont House of Representatives recognized the hard work and effort of the states many Pharmacists by a resolution declaring it Vermont Pharmacists Day!

Members of the VPA as well as student members from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Science were on hand to hear the proclamation.



Vermont House filled with pharmacists and student pharmacists for Vermont Pharmacists Day - photo by Sandra Rosa



More pharmacists/student pharmacists in the balcony for Vermont Pharmacist day - photo by Sandra Rosa

**ACPHS Student
VPA Members**



Student pharmacist members of VPA pose in front of Abraham Lincoln in the state legislative building -photo by Sandra Rosa

While attending Vermont Pharmacists Day, members of the VPA as well as student members took the opportunity to educate legislators as to the expanding role of pharmacists in Vermont. They also advocated the responsible expanding these roles where necessary by both speaking and handing out information cards asking that them to coordinate with with board of pharmacy to establish specific guidelines to expand on the pharmacists prescriptive authority.



Student pharmacist members of VPA in the state house for Vermont Pharmacists Day - photo by Sandra Rosa

National News

Congressional Democrats Introduce Legislation to Allow Medicare Drug Price Negotiations

Representative Lloyd Doggett (D) from Texas introduced a bill along with 100 co-sponsors to tackle the problem of rising drug prices by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices directly with pharmaceutical companies.

To ensure negotiations are “in good faith,” Representative Doggett proposes that Health and Human Services be able to grant competitive licenses to

companies interested in manufacturing a generic version of the product. If a company chooses to make a less expensive alternative, they would allow them an expedited review process through the FDA.

The bill is expected to face pushback from the major pharmaceutical companies.

For more information, check out [this article in Roll Call](#)

Bipartisan Bill to Prevent Health Insurance Price Fixing

The Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act, introduced by Senators Steve Danies (R-MT) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), was introduced on February 6th. This bill is designed to amend the rules that currently allow insurance companies to be exempted from federal antitrust regulations.

“Applying our federal antitrust laws to health insurance providers will let Americans feel more confident that the prices they are being charged are the product of a fair marketplace,” said Senator Leahy.

Currently the McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945 exempts insurance companies from federal antitrust laws.

Read more in the Vermont Digger [here](#).

Contact

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Email us at EditorVPANews@gmail.com

Stories Shared on the VPA Facebook

These stories were shared on the VPA Facebook page in January and February. Give our Facebook page a like to stay up to date!

<https://www.facebook.com/Vermont-Pharmacists-Association-136437713082449/>

He'd Never Had Allergies But Suddenly He Had Two Episodes That Nearly Killed Him. Why?

Lacking Volunteers, Small Towns Considering Closing, Merging EMS

Chittenden County opioid deaths drop 50 percent

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