



Date: March 8, 2016

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Kansas Pharmacists Association

Re: House Bill No. 2646

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee,

My name is Doug Funk and I am here today representing the Kansas Pharmacists Association in support of House Bill 2626. The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association that represents Kansas pharmacists from all practice settings. Thank you for allowing me to present testimony today on House Bill 2646.

The proposed change to House Bill 2646 is meant to help increase immunization rates and accessibility for patients across Kansas by lowering the age at which pharmacists can legally administer vaccines.

Pharmacists receive training and certification in the prescribing and administering of all immunizations approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC approved training program prepares pharmacists for administration of vaccines down to the age of three through the American Pharmacists Association. Immunization training and certification is also part of the pharmacy school curriculum in which all pharmacy students must complete.

As a requirement for successful program completion, participants are expected to demonstrate the ability to administer intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intranasal injections. The patient ages to which pharmacists will ultimately administer vaccines is dependent upon the authority granted by state law, current practice guidelines, scope of practice protocols and procedures, and the needs of their community. As part of their education, pharmacists are also trained to deal with potential adverse reactions. Many healthcare professionals have not undergone the level of immunization training that pharmacists complete.

Rates of immunization/non-immunization in Kansas....vs the country

In February 2016, Kansas was reported as ranking last in the nation in the percentage of girls who have received the HPV vaccine. Fewer than half the girls in Kansas receive the vaccine according to the CDC despite its being proven safe and effective in preventing several types of cancer caused by the HPV virus. According to the current legislation, an age limitation of ≥ 18 years old exists for pharmacist-administered HPV vaccine despite FDA approval as early as nine years old.

This is just one example of an area pharmacists can assist in improving vaccination rates state-wide. As of October 1, 2013, 21 states have no age limitations for pharmacist administered vaccinations and this number is likely higher in 2016 (according to NASPA and APhA 2013 survey).

By lowering the age at which pharmacists can effectively immunize patients under protocol, we will be able to increase and enhance immunization practices in the state of Kansas. Needed vaccines will be



administered in local and rural communities by pharmacists to patients and families that may otherwise go unimmunized.

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the need and benefits regarding pharmacist administered immunizations. Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.