



KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

CARING FOR KANSANS

Testimony: House Bill 2646

House Health & Human Services Committee

March 8, 2016

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Chairman Hawkins and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of our 1,630+ members across the state. My name is Dr. Wakon Fowler and I practice family medicine in Pratt. I am here today to oppose *House Bill 2646*, which would allow pharmacists and interns to administer vaccines to any person six years of age or older. We fully support efforts to improve vaccination rates and have worked diligently with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Immunization Coalition for many years to further the goal. Our concerns relate to comprehensive patient care and the fragmentation of care.

One of the hallmarks of family medicine and the medical home is continuous and comprehensive patient care. An immunization appointment often represents the best (and only) opportunity to examine patients and provide other preventative care. Family physicians treat the whole person, not just one part of the person. We provide a medical home and a place where patients can be seen for all of their medical needs. Because family physicians provide long-term care over the life of their patients, they document, keep up with and sometimes anticipate patients' needs – including sending reminders when it's time for check-ups and immunizations. This is far outside of a pharmacist's normal scope of practice.

The health care system is already overwhelmed by fragmentation of care. Fragmentation can cause patients being either under- or over-treated, and does not lead to comprehensive disease prevention and/or management. Kansas has endorsed the medical home model in recent years, with the idea of bringing health care services (and documentation) together to provide more seamless care to patients.



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A final concern we have with this bill is the issue of adverse reactions to immunizations.

Physicians are trained to treat these reactions, when they occur, and are responsible for keeping records of prior immunization issues.

As family physicians, we remain committed to the patient-centered medical home, where patients are able to receive comprehensive, continuous care with long-term follow-up. The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians has worked long and hard to improve immunization rates and we know this is best achieved in a comprehensive manner – in better collaboration with our health care partners, not through further fragmentation of patient care.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our concerns to you today. I'm happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.