



Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Testimony submitted by Mike Larkin
Kansas Pharmacists Association, Topeka Kansas

February 17 2015

Chairman Pilcher-Cook and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association in Kansas that represents Kansas pharmacists from all practice settings. Thank you for allowing KPhA to present written testimony today on Senate Bill 181.

Kansas pharmacists understand the importance of patient access to potentially life-saving prescription drugs. We are also keenly aware of the interests the state has in ensuring a fiscally prudent policy is in place in the Medicaid program. Under the current law, a Medicaid patient has immediate access to a new medication. Given the frequency that the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board committee meets, the Board should be able to make a determination on a particular drug relatively quickly. However as the proposed change is written, the Secretary of Health and Environment may place a hold on the use of a new drug, waiting for the approval or denial of the Medicaid DUR Board.

A concern we have is that there is no time table by which a decision must be made by the DUR Board. The majority of new drugs pending in the manufacturing pipeline will be specialty drugs which are high dollar or difficult to administer or both. No one wants to see Kansas tax dollars wasted, but we also do not want to see a patient denied access to a life-saving medication until such time the DUR Board can meet to decide about a new drug.

KPhA would like to recommend the legislation contain a time limitation in which the DUR Board would be required to act on new drugs. This will ensure timely deliberation and action on new drugs. We also feel that a thoughtful step therapy program whereby new drugs under certain conditions would be accessible to Medicaid patients. We feel that these two modifications would enhance this legislation significantly.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony. Please feel free to contact me at 785-228-2327 any time if you have questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Larkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Larkin
Executive Director
Kansas Pharmacists Association