

Thank you, Madam Chair and Committee members. My name is Calli Rains, and I am a certified pharmacy technician at a small, independent pharmacy in south-central Kansas. I am here to voice my support for HB 2263.

I think that as a pharmacy, we have always been overlooked in the medical profession. COVID, and subsequently, the pandemic, changed this. Pharmacies nationwide rose to the occasion to help the overworked and overly exhausted medical facilities. But, we could only have done this with the help of the entire pharmacy staff.

The PREP Act allowed trained and qualified technicians to stand beside pharmacists and help during the pandemic. I have administered thousands of vaccines in outreach clinics across Cowley and Sedgwick counties. Pharmacists alone could not have done this and kept up with their daily tasks at the pharmacy. Allowing technicians to continue administering vaccines allows pharmacists to perform tasks only they can, making for more workflow flexibility and better patient care.

An example of what possible workflow disruption looks like; is when our local community college brings several student-athletes in at once for vaccines. Pre-pandemic, this would have delayed our pharmacist because not only does she have prescriptions to check, but also phone calls on hold, patients who need counseling on medications, and now, to top it off, ten tennis players and five soccer players need vaccinations. This is where the qualified technician steps in and administers their vaccines in a timely manner, and the pharmacist doesn't miss a beat. For me personally, I truly felt like I made a difference and helped during the pandemic. I was proud and honored to help.

Now that we have had the opportunity, and I know how much it has helped our patients, the pharmacists I work with, and the community I live in, I would hate to see my opportunity to contribute to the care we provide diminished. HB2263 will allow me to continue to provide timely service to our patients that wish to be vaccinated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to stand for questions when appropriate.