



March 15, 2023

Testimony – Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

HB 2263 – Provide for Vaccine Administration by Pharmacy Technicians

Written Testimony in Support

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the Committee

On behalf of Walmart, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in favor of HB 2263, which would allow pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines.

Community-based pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns are integral members of the community that bring significant value to the individuals they serve. The role of pharmacists is expanding in many locations, and pharmacists are in a unique position to provide a variety of clinical services intended to improve patient health outcomes and reduce racial disparities. This can include not only delivering effective and tailored pharmaceutical care, counseling, and education about medications, diet, health, and wellness, but also establishing meaningful, personal connections and building positive relationships. Pharmacists are trusted health care professionals and, as the role of pharmacists expands, we could be a first stop on a patient's health care journey, most frequently due to availability, affordability, and/or geography. Nearly 90 percent of Americans live within 5 miles of a community pharmacy. In Kansas, Walmart and Sam's Club operate 74 pharmacies and 9 pharmacies, respectively.

Doctors have historically had primary responsibility for providing care to patients, and we expect that to continue, but pharmacists can play a critical and complimentary role in providing essential clinical care to the public, particularly in health professional shortage areas.

From both a policy and patient health perspective, to reach the most vulnerable patient populations, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must be able to practice to the full extent of their education and training. Expanding the role of the pharmacy technician to other activities that do not explicitly require the professional judgment of a pharmacist, such as vaccine administration, will allow the pharmacist more time to furnish direct patient care. With this increased capacity, a pharmacist will be able to spend more time with community members, providing preventive services, educational counseling, medication therapy management, and more, which has the potential to contribute to better outcomes and support broader health and wellness in the population.

Walmart is strongly supportive of HB 2263, which amends the Kansas Pharmacy Act to allow pharmacy technicians who are trained in vaccine administration and under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines. Passage of this bill will help to maximize the use and value of pharmacy technicians without sacrificing patient safety, as well as help to reduce health disparities and bridge the gap for those who live in rural and medically underserved areas.

Because of our local accessibility, community pharmacies can help to advance health equity among patients, many of whom are medically or socially vulnerable.

All individuals must have equal access to the quality, affordable health resources they deserve. Modernizing pharmacy practice by recognizing the essential role that pharmacy technicians, working hand in hand with pharmacists, have in caring for Kansas' population will facilitate an important step towards advancing health equity in the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on this important topic. I urge your support of HB 2263.

Best Regards,

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