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FEBRUARY 7, 2025

**To House Insurance Committee Members,**

My name is Morgan Buntin, I am a practicing pharmacist and owner of Richey's Drug Store in Erie, KS. I would like to provide written testimony of **opposition to HB 2244**. While I support tele-pharmacy and I believe it would be advantageous to many rural Kansas communities in terms of increased health access, it must be strictly regulated by the Board of Pharmacy to protect patients. As a pharmacist, it is part of my sworn oath to protect patient's health and safety, first and foremost. This bill does not provide the protection and oversight that tele-pharmacy would require without a licensed pharmacist present.

The purpose of tele-pharmacy would be to increase patient access to medication in areas where there is no access. Allowing the dispensing of medication without a pharmacist present without any restrictions or consideration of the proximity to an established brick and mortar pharmacy is in direct conflict with patient safety. If access to a licensed pharmacist is already available to that population, allowing a tele-pharmacy to open nearby speaks only to profitability of a business or company, not to what is best for the health and safety of that population.

Furthermore, as a pharmacist practicing in this state, I am concerned about the complete turnover of my entire professional governing entity. Boards work best when there is continuity, hence the reason they all have staggered terms. To have a complete turnover at once and all new members would be detrimental to my profession and the strength of our board, whose sole purpose to protect patients from poor pharmacy practice, which I believe this bill is promoting. While I do support the bill's proposed diverse backgrounds requirement of board members, it would not be logical for them to be appointed by anyone other than the governor, which is the current standard of practice across the other healthcare professional boards in Kansas.

Thank you for considering my testimony and thank you for taking into account the health and safety of the people of Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morgan Buntin", written in a cursive style.

Morgan Buntin, PharmD.