

February 7, 2025

Chairman Sutton and House Insurance Committee Members,

My name is Chellie Ortiz and I am the President of the Independent Pharmacy Association of Kansas (IPAK). IPAK represents all independent pharmacies in Kansas. Independent pharmacies provide care to their local communities in a variety of ways including dispensing medications, administering vaccinations, counseling, education and more. Pharmacists are a vital healthcare provider for patients.

IPAK is opposed to HB 2244 as it is presented due to the implications this bill could have on independent pharmacy and the communities that we serve. Our concerns center around the safety and health care of the patients we serve across Kansas.

One of the primary responsibilities of the board of pharmacy is to protect the public against the unqualified practice of pharmacy, ensuring patient safety. It would be a disserve to the board of pharmacy and the safety of Kansans to disrupt the board's composition. Terminating all of the existing board positions at once would have a detrimental impact on the board's ability to effectively carry on this mission to ensure patient safety. In addition, we see no need for a change in how board members are appointed, as the current process of being appointed by the Governor is similar to many other healthcare boards in Kansas.

One of the most common safety issues that the board of pharmacy has to address revolves around the work of pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy technicians are a vital part of a pharmacy's workflow and interaction with patients. However, it is critical that a pharmacist be on site at all times to ensure patient safety. Patients often ask a variety of unanticipated questions when picking up their medications, and a pharmacist must be on-hand to not just answer these questions, but to also ensure that any interactions and communication between a technician and a patient do not exceed the technician's qualifications to answer. Practicing pharmacists daily need to quickly provide input and intervene in the technician and patient discussions to ensure patient safety.

In the interest of protecting the safety of patients, we oppose HB 244.

Respectfully,



Chellie Ortiz  
IPAK, President