

Gavin Duley

208 W 4th

Caney, KS 67333

admin@creativehealthpharmacy.com

620-879-5822

02/06/2025

To:

Chairman Sutton and House Insurance Committee members

Kansas State Capitol

300 SW 10th Ave

Topeka, KS 66612

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 2244 – Protecting Rural Pharmacy Access and Regulatory Integrity

Dear Representatives,

I write to **strongly oppose HB 2244**, which would **weaken telepharmacy safeguards and compromise the independence of the Kansas Board of Pharmacy**. These changes threaten patient care, particularly in rural areas.

Lack of Stakeholder Input

Our telepharmacy is believed to be the only active telepharmacy in Kansas, yet no one drafting this bill consulted us on its impact or to ask a single question about the current operations of the site. The lack of engagement with practitioners raises concerns about whether the potential effects on patient care have been fully considered. A collaborative approach—involving those with direct experience—would be a better option to ensure telepharmacy policies serve Kansas communities.

Protecting Rural Access to Pharmacy Services

Telepharmacy in Kansas was established to **serve rural communities**, with regulations ensuring:

- Supervising pharmacies remain close enough for timely pharmacist access
- Distance requirements prevent telepharmacy locations from undermining existing rural pharmacies, ensuring these services expand access rather than displacing local providers.

HB 2244 **removes distance requirements**, which could:

- Allow telepharmacies anywhere, potentially bypassing underserved rural areas and disrupting established rural pharmacy accessibility

- Reduce pharmacist oversight, weakening patient care.
- Undermine the original intent of Kansas' telepharmacy model, which prioritized rural healthcare access.

Maintaining a Strong, Independent Board of Pharmacy

The bill **politicizes pharmacy regulation** by:

- Giving the Insurance Commissioner authority to appoint specifically one subset of pharmacy representatives to the board of pharmacy, chain pharmacy representatives, creating a conflict of interest.
- Allowing the Speaker of the House and Senate President to appoint board members, diverting pharmacy professionals' influence.

The **Board of Pharmacy should regulate pharmacy—not political or industry interests**. Its independence is critical to protecting patients and ensuring pharmacy practice standards.

Disregarding the Telepharmacy Pilot Program

Kansas' telepharmacy regulations were evidence-based, developed from a structured pilot program evaluating effectiveness and safety. HB 2244 disregards those findings, removing key safeguards that ensured patient-centered telepharmacy practices.

Conclusion: Prioritizing Patient Care Over Industry Influence

I urge you to oppose HB 2244 and instead focus on policies that:

- Preserve distance requirements to ensure pharmacist accessibility and protect existing rural pharmacies.
- Maintain network adequacy standards, preventing unchecked telepharmacy expansion.
- Protect the independence of the Kansas Board of Pharmacy, ensuring regulatory decisions remain in the hands of pharmacy professionals.

If the goal is truly to improve pharmacy access and patient care, engaging those with firsthand experience is essential, yet no one involved in the drafting or presentation of this bill reached out to us, the site that guided the original creation of telepharmacy practice in Kansas. I appreciate your time and urge you to vote against HB 2244 to protect rural healthcare access and the integrity of pharmacy regulation in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Gavin Duley

Pharmacist -Owner - Creative Health Pharmacy
 admin@creativehealthpharmacy.com