



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO KANSAS HOUSE BILL 2244

Jared Holroyd, Executive Director
Kansas Pharmacists Association - Topeka, Kansas

Chairman Sutton and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA), I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2244 due to its potential to undermine independent pharmacies, reduce patient access to care, and limit the Kansas Board of Pharmacy's ability to regulate the pharmacy profession effectively and expeditiously. KPhA is the statewide professional association representing all 13,500 Kansas-licensed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists across all practice settings and we are concerned about the unintended consequences of this bill.

HB2244 poses a significant threat to independent pharmacies, particularly in rural areas, by removing proximity restrictions for telepharmacy outlets from an existing pharmacy store. In many rural areas, independent pharmacists serve multiple roles in their communities, including staffing critical access hospitals and local health departments. Allowing a telepharmacy outlet to operate near an existing physical pharmacy could severely impact business viability. If an existing pharmacy cannot sustain its business due to unfair competition from telepharmacy, the pharmacist may be forced to leave the area entirely, leaving the community without a physical pharmacist. Unlike primary care and specialty providers who rotate through communities, pharmacists provide consistent, trusted care, often living where they work. Their absence would further contribute to healthcare shortages in rural Kansas. Losing a community pharmacist means not just fewer prescriptions filled, but fewer immunizations, chronic disease management, and direct patient counseling. As you know, these pharmacies are often pillars of main street, chambers of commerce, and supporters of schools and families in their towns.

To be clear, there are critical services provided by pharmacists that tele-pharmacists cannot provide and if the community loses their pharmacist these services cease to exist. This puts additional strain on the challenge of keeping and attracting people to our rural areas.

Additionally, KPhA is concerned that restricting the Kansas Board of Pharmacy from adopting telepharmacy regulations would hinder the state's ability to adapt to evolving technology and patient care. No other healthcare regulatory board in Kansas is subjected to such constraints, making this an unnecessary and harmful limitation on the most accessible and trusted healthcare professionals.

Finally, we are concerned with the appointments to the Kansas Board of Pharmacy under HB2244. Specifically, we are concerned that HB2244 excludes key sectors of pharmacy practice from Board representation, such as health system, ambulatory care, and industry pharmacists. With a growing number of pharmacy students nationwide, including at the University of Kansas' School of Pharmacy, pursuing careers in hospital and health system settings, it is essential that their voices are represented in the governance of their profession is essential.

For these reasons, KPhA opposes HB2244. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Jared Holroyd, Executive Director
jared@ksrx.org
785.217.8007