



Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy

Committee on Insurance

Friday February 7, 2025

Regarding House Bill 2244: Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy Testimony in
Opposition

Chairman Sutton and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy (KCHP), I am writing to express our opposition to Kansas House Bill 2244 which proposes changes to the composition of the Kansas Board of Pharmacy. The Board of Pharmacy's mission is to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare to promote the education and understanding of pharmacy-related practices; in affirming that mission, KCHP is deeply concerned about the implications of HB 2244.

As written the proposed bill excludes the perspectives of hospital pharmacists and other critical areas of pharmacy practice. Hospital pharmacists play an indispensable role in patient care including managing highly complex medication regimens, caring for critically ill hospitalized patients, and supporting patient safety. Our expertise and insight are unique and differ significantly from those of pharmacists in retail, chain, or specialty settings. Additionally, national employment statistics show that hospital pharmacists comprise 33-40% of the pharmacist workforce. Excluding the specialized perspectives and practice needs of this wide swath of the hospital workforce from Board representation shortchanges its ability to make informed decisions that affect all areas of pharmacy practice.

House Bill 2244, as currently designed, creates opportunities for special interest groups and lobbyists to pursue agendas that are not aligned with pharmacy practice safety and advancement. The integrity of the Kansas Board of Pharmacy relies on a balanced and fair representation of all pharmacy practice areas, ensuring that decisions are made in the best interest of public health and safety. Allowing special interest groups to influence the composition of the Board jeopardizes this balance and compromises the Board's mission to protect Kansans.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the changes proposed in Kansas House Bill 2244. The existing process for nominating appointees to the Board of Pharmacy supports opportunities for differing perspectives to be included in shaping pharmacy regulations as well as supports representation of the will of voters. This bill, in its current form, fails to recognize the vital contributions of hospital pharmacists and other specialized pharmacy practices. It opens the door for undue influence from special interest groups, compromising patient safety and forestalling pharmacy practice advancement. It is essential that the Kansas Board of Pharmacy remains an impartial body, accurately representing and upholding the varied and essential roles within the field of pharmacy to ensure the health and safety of the public.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely,

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