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March 12, 2025

Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance,

As Chief Executive Officer of Rawlins County Health Center, the 340B program is a critical component to providing patients with the care that they need. I believe that health care access is important to Kansas citizens, and the 340B program is an important part of ensuring access to care for your constituents.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals and clinics, the drug manufacturers have recklessly disregarded the legislative intent, and continued exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms, by telling our hospitals that they can only contract with one pharmacy.

When this happens, hospitals have to choose one pharmacy for 340B. These actions hurt local pharmacies, and they also hurt patients. At our hospital, these funds are used for critical services such as increasing access to care, improving adherence to life-saving drug regimens, and ensuring we can effectively partner with local pharmacies to allow patients access to medications and treatments close to home.

We hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. We know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics and local pharmacies rather than adding to the already historically large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas. We hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

Thank you,

Lucretia Stargell
CEO



**RICE COMMUNITY
HEALTHCARE**
HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1
OF RICE COUNTY

March 12, 2025

Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

Dear Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Rice Community Health, I am writing to express our strong support for the 340B Drug Pricing Program and urge your continued commitment to protecting this essential program in Kansas. The 340B program is a critical tool that enables hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies to provide affordable care and essential medications to patients in underserved communities, ensuring that no Kansan is left without access to the healthcare they need.

At Rice Community Health, the 340B program has had a profound impact. The savings generated through this program allow us to reinvest in patient care by expanding access to medications, funded our Community Health Workers program, which serves patients across six counties, allowed us to invest in advanced imaging and laboratory equipment, and provide competitive wages for our clinical teams. Additionally, it helps offset the financial burden of uncompensated care, ensuring that we can continue serving patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Unfortunately, ongoing restrictions imposed by pharmaceutical manufacturers threaten the integrity of the program. Many hospitals and clinics, including ours, are now forced to contract with only one pharmacy for 340B participation, severely limiting patient access to affordable medications and harming independent pharmacies that serve our communities. Without enforcement mechanisms in place, these restrictions will continue to undermine the intent of the program and jeopardize the healthcare safety net for Kansans.

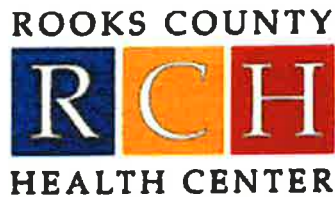
We urge the Kansas Legislature to take action, as numerous other states have, by implementing strong protections to ensure that 340B savings remain accessible at all eligible contract pharmacies and healthcare facilities. State legislatures and courts across the country, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have affirmed that such measures are well within their authority. By standing up for 340B, Kansas can protect its hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies from corporate overreach—without imposing any cost on taxpayers.

We ask for your leadership in preserving the 340B program in Kansas and ensuring it continues to benefit the patients and communities who rely on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

George M. Stover
Chief Executive Officer
Rice Community Health



Jeff Van Dyke
Rooks County Health Center
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Plainville, KS 67663
785-688-3695
Jeff.vandyke@rch.health

March 12, 2025

Dear Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance,

As the Chief Executive Officer of Rooks County Health Center, I am writing to emphasize the critical role the 340B program plays in enabling us to provide essential care to our patients. Health care access is crucial for Kansas citizens, and the 340B program is vital in ensuring that access to care is available to all.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals and clinics, the drug manufacturers have recklessly disregarded the legislative intent, and continued exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms, by telling our hospitals that they can only contract with one pharmacy. This limitation forces hospitals to choose one pharmacy for 340B, negatively impacting local pharmacies and patients alike.

Rooks County Health Center is able to provide medical treatment and medications to our uninsured and underinsured patients through savings generated through the 340B program. Those same savings also offset the cost of uncompensated services for our community members.

We hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. We know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics and local pharmacies rather than adding to the already historically large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

We hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Van Dyke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Van Dyke, Interim CEO



Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance,

As Public Relations Director of Russell Regional Hospital, the 340B program is a critical component to providing patients with the care that they need. I believe that healthcare access is important to Kansas citizens, and the 340B program is an important part of ensuring access to care for your constituents.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics, the drug manufacturers have recklessly disregarded the legislative intent, and continued exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms, by telling our hospitals that they can only contract with one pharmacy.

When this happens, hospitals have to choose one pharmacy for 340B. These actions hurt local pharmacies, and they also hurt patients.

Russell Regional Hospital is able to serve more Kansans with the use of 340B. For more than three decades, the 340B Program has enabled safety net providers, like RRH, to purchase medications at a discount so that federal resources can be stretched further to reach more eligible patients and provide more comprehensive services. The 340B Program benefits patients by providing access to affordable, life-saving medications. Hospitals in turn provide access to medically necessary services for patients in need.

We hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. We know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics, and local pharmacies rather than adding to the already historically large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

We hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

Janae Talbott

Janae Talbott, Public Relations Director, Russell Regional Hospital

200 S. Main, Russell, Ks 67665 – Phone: 785-650-7659 – Email: janaet@russellhospital.org



March 13, 2023

Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

Dear Committee Members,

As CEO of Sabetha Community Hospital, I am writing to emphasize the vital importance of the 340B Drug Discount Program to our rural healthcare facility and the communities we serve.

For more than three decades, the 340B program has been a cornerstone of our ability to provide comprehensive healthcare services to our patients. This program, which enjoys strong bipartisan support, allows safety net providers like our hospital to purchase medications at a discount so we can "stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services."

The 340B program is not merely beneficial—it is essential for healthcare access in rural Kansas. Eighty-eight hospitals in our state, mostly rural like ours, depend on this program to maintain services that would otherwise be financially unsustainable. Without the 340B program, many Kansas rural hospitals would have to drastically reduce or discontinue healthcare services offered in their communities.

At Sabetha Community Hospital, 340B savings directly support critical services including:

- Maintaining obstetric services in our rural area
- Providing access to mental health services
- Offering cancer treatment closer to home
- Ensuring lifesaving prescription drugs are available from local pharmacies

The mission of all Kansas hospitals and health systems, regardless of size and type, is to care for our patients and communities. The 340B program supports healthier Kansans by providing access to affordable, life-saving medications and enabling hospitals to provide medically necessary services for patients in need.

We respectfully urge the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee to join dozens of other states that have already protected their 340B programs. Courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have confirmed that contracting limitations related to this program fall squarely within state legislative authority.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics, and local pharmacies rather than further padding the already substantial profit margins of pharmaceutical corporations. You can accomplish this without any expense to Kansas taxpayers by simply holding drug companies to the agreements they've already made at the federal level—requiring them to honor the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

We strongly encourage your support of Senate Bill 284, which would make permanent the protections Kansas lawmakers have already recognized as vital to preserving Kansans' access to care.

Respectfully,

James A. Longabaugh, DO, CEO

Sabetha Community Hospital

SATANTA DISTRICT HOSPITAL



Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance,

As a nurse for the last twenty-three years and now proudly serving as the CEO of Satanta District Hospital in SWKS for the last four years, I can attest that the 340B program is critical to providing patients with the exceptional care they need and deserve. The impact of the 340B program on healthcare access is significant for Kansas citizens, and your support is crucial in ensuring access to care for your constituents **because where they live should never determine if they live!**

As a nurse, I've seen first-hand the impact on the patient's health when they can't afford or can't get to the pharmacy to start the medications vital to helping cure or control what ails them. I have served as an emergency room (ER) nurse in multiple healthcare facilities. Time and time again, we would see the same patients in the ER due to them not being able to get to the pharmacy for their medication, not having the money to pay for their medications, patients seen reusing their insulin needles due to the cost, or come in unresponsive in diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) which is extremely high blood sugar, because they couldn't afford insulin. It was hard for me to truly understand the 'why' until July 29th, 2019, when our daughter was diagnosed as a type 1 diabetic. Then, the 'why' made total sense. I didn't see the challenges my patients were going through until our child and our family were impacted.

Lifesaving medications were out of reach for those who literally couldn't live without them! This is why the 340B program is so essential; it tips the scale back into our patients' and your constituents' favor. The 340B program not only helps patients afford their medication but also keeps the local pharmacy in their town. We all know healthcare is vital, especially in rural Kansas, but if our patients have to travel 30-45 min every time they need a new medication or a refill on their medication, the compliance of taking that medication plummets, and then the vicious circle begins, they don't take the medication, their health declines, and sometimes they gain their wings way too soon, and that is not addressing the impact it has on their family, friends, neighbors, community, and their healthcare team. The 340B program is not just a policy, it's a lifeline for our patients and many others throughout the state.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics, the drug manufacturers have recklessly disregarded the legislative intent, and continued exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms, by telling our hospitals that they can only contract with one pharmacy.

When this happens, hospitals have to choose one pharmacy for 340B. These actions hurt local pharmacies, and they also hurt patients.

At our hospital, the following programs are supported through 340B savings:

We are able to offer free medication delivery to the patients we serve.

Satanta Retail Pharmacy is under the umbrella of the Satanta District Hospital. Without the 340B program, operating the ONLY retail pharmacy in our rural county would become extremely difficult, if not impossible.

SATANTA DISTRICT HOSPITAL



We offer free compliance packaging to our patients who find it difficult to remember to take their medication at the correct time and in the correct dose.

Our 340B Program benefits patients by providing access to affordable, life-saving medications. SDH in turn provides access to medically necessary services for patients in need.

We hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. We know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics, and local pharmacies rather than adding to the already historically large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

I personally want to thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. We greatly appreciate all you do to support Kansas hospitals and the constituents you serve.

We hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

Sincerely,

Tina Pendergraft, RN, BSN, CEO

Ph: 620-682-8415

Cell: 620-2901847

tpendergraft@satantahospital.org



SCOTT COUNTY HOSPITAL

"We Put Our Heart In Healthcare"

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Scott City, KS 67871
Phone: (620) 872-5811
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www.scotthospital.net

March 13, 2025,

Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance,

I am the Chief Financial Officer of Scott County Hospital in Scott City Kansas. I am writing on half of the 340B program and the critical role which it has played in providing patients with the care that they need. I believe that healthcare access is important to Kansas citizens, and the 340B program is an important part of ensuring access to care for your constituents.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics, the drug manufacturers have recklessly disregarded the legislative intent, and continued exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms, by telling our hospitals that they can only contract with one pharmacy.

When this happens, hospitals are forced to choose one pharmacy for 340B. These actions hurt local pharmacies, and they also hurt patients, which in turn hurt the local economies.

The 340B savings help us to maintain many programs at our hospital including, but not limited to OB. In rural America OB programs are continuing to disappear, making it challenging to find quality healthcare for expectant mothers. By its nature OB is a losing business on its own, but thanks to the 340B program, we are able to continue the service.

We hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. We know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics, and local pharmacies rather than adding to the already large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

We hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

Sincerely,

James L. Forrest, Jr, CFO

Scott County Hospital

Scott City, Kansas



Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance:

As the CEO of Smith County Memorial Hospital, the 340B program is a critical component to providing patients with the care that they need. I believe that healthcare access is important to Kansas citizens, and the 340B program is an important part of ensuring access to care for your constituents.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics from the administratively placed limitations on 340B benefits by limiting contract pharmacies, the drug manufacturers have watched the courts indicate that the provisions wouldn't be enforced due to this language not having the force of state law. Since that time, our hospitals have seen many drug manufacturers go right back to blocking 340B benefits through limiting to only one contract pharmacy. When this happens, hospitals have to choose one pharmacy for 340B. These actions hurt local pharmacies, but it also hurts patients.

At our hospital 340 B savings supports affordable, life-saving medications, emergency care, behavior health programs, maternal health care and OB programs to name a few. I hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. I know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics, and local pharmacies rather than adding to the already historically large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

I hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

Respectfully,

Sarah Ragsdale, MBA, BSN, RN
Chief Executive Officer
Smith County Memorial Hospital

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Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance,

As CEO, of Southwest Medical Center, the 340B Program is a critical component to providing patients with the care that they need. I believe that healthcare access is important to Kansas citizens, and the 340B Program is an important part of ensuring access to care for your constituents.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics, the drug manufacturers have recklessly disregarded the legislative intent, and continued exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms, by telling our hospitals that they can only contract with one pharmacy.

At our hospital, the following is supported through 340B savings:

- The 340B Program benefits our patients by providing access to affordable, life-saving medications. These benefits allow us to provide access to medically necessary services for the patients in need.
- The 340B Program helps us support a healthier community.
- The 340B Program has been crucial in giving our community access to lifesaving prescription drugs from local pharmacies that are not obtainable without the program.
- The 340B Program helps our hospital treat more patients, stretch limited resources, and provide more services to patients and does not use taxpayer funds.
- The 340B program helps our hospital meet the healthcare needs of the underserved patients in our community.

We hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. We know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within in the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics, and local pharmacies rather than addition to the already historically large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

We hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amber Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

Amber Williams
President & Chief Executive Officer

St. Luke Hospital
535 S. Freeborn • Marion, KS 66861
(620) 382-2177

St. Luke Living Center
535 S. Freeborn • Marion, KS 66861
(620) 382-3117



St. Luke Medical Clinic
537 S. Freeborn • Marion, KS 66861
(620) 382-2033

Marion County Home Care
535 S. Freeborn • Marion, KS 66861
(620) 382-3690

Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance,

As Chief Executive Office of St. Luke Hospital and Living Center the 340B program is a critical component to providing patients with the care that they need. I believe that healthcare access is important to Kansas citizens, and the 340B program is an important part of ensuring access to care for your constituents.

While the legislature added language in the 2024 budget bill to protect local pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics, the drug manufacturers have recklessly disregarded the legislative intent, and continued exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms, by telling our hospitals that they can only contract with one pharmacy.

When this happens, hospitals like ours must choose one pharmacy for 340B. These actions hurt local pharmacies, and they also hurt patients by limited their options.

At our hospital the following programs are supported through 340B savings:

24/7 emergency room that exam and treat every patient regardless of payment source, or lack thereof. We also use the savings to provide other services to our communities that don't contribute financially to the bottom line, such as home health, mental health services to elderly, long term care unit, along with many others.

We hope that the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee will join the dozens of other states that have already protected their programs. We know that courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, have agreed that contracting limitations related to this program are well within the bounds of state legislatures.

Your committee can protect our state hospitals, clinics, and local pharmacies rather than adding to the already large profit margins of large pharmaceutical companies. You can do this at no expense to the Kansas taxpayers, by holding the drug companies to the agreements that they already made at the federal level and requiring them to honor their word and the 340B savings at all contract locations and pharmacies throughout Kansas.

We hope you will support Senate Bill 284.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex R. Haines, RN MHCL

CEO

Testimony in Support of SB 284

Submitted to the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

Madam Chair Dietrich and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 284. My name is Stacie Mason, and I serve as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Stormont Vail Health. As a not-for-profit healthcare system committed to providing high-quality, accessible care to Kansans, we rely on the 340B Drug Pricing Program to support critical health services in our community.

For more than 30 years, the 340B Program has allowed providers, including hospitals like Stormont Vail, to stretch limited resources, enhance patient access to care, and reinvest in essential healthcare services—all without relying on taxpayer dollars. However, pharmaceutical manufacturers have continued to erode the program's integrity by imposing unilateral restrictions and requirements that result in limited access to affordable and lifesaving medications and treatments. The latest action has limited hospitals to just one contract pharmacy which puts small, independent Kansas pharmacies at risk and forces patients—especially those in rural communities—to travel farther for life-saving medications.

At Stormont Vail Health, 340B savings directly fund essential programs that serve vulnerable Kansans, including:

- Behavioral health services, ensuring patients have access to critical mental health care.
- Preventive screenings and cancer care, helping detect and treat diseases early.
- Community health initiatives, providing care to underserved populations.

While the 2024 legislature took an important step by including 340B protections in the state budget, drug manufacturers have disregarded these measures, exploiting the lack of enforcement mechanisms. SB 284 is necessary to hold manufacturers accountable, prevent further restrictions on contract pharmacies, and safeguard access to affordable medications. This legislation follows the lead of other states and ensures that drug companies honor the commitments they made under federal law.

Passing SB 284 is not about creating new regulations—it is about protecting Kansans' access to care, preserving the viability of our local pharmacies, and preventing further increase of pharmaceutical profits at the expense of patients. We urge this committee to stand with hospitals, clinics, and communities across Kansas by supporting this critical legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacie Mason, MBA
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer