



Testimony before the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Hearing on Senate Bill 123

Submitted by: Eric Stafford on behalf of the Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation.

February 11, 2015

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation (KPSC) regarding Senate Bill 123. KPSC is a Kansas-based corporation representing independent pharmacies across the state as stockholders. The corporation provides access to a national retail prescription drug buying program and also is active in advocacy and education activities for all stockholder pharmacies.

KPSC would like to express our support of SB 123 though with notable conditions. In repealing K.S.A. 39-7,121b, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) can bring certain utilization management methods to medications used to treating mental illness in the state Medicaid program (KanCare). Such methods have had some positive application in employee health plan prescription drug programs and offer potential cost savings to the program.

If such a change in the utilization management of the Kansas Medicaid drug program is allowed, we strongly believe that processes which accurately identify beneficiaries who may benefit from remaining on their current drug therapies must be present. Beneficiaries, their prescribers and their pharmacists need to have clear, timely ways to complete any process or review of drug therapy so that patient care is kept as the primary concern. This includes timely communications to prescribers regarding any planned changes in a Medicaid patient's current drug therapy. In this regard, we believe that KDHE will need to add specific responsibilities for its applicable committees that may oversee utilization management.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today in support of Senate Bill 123. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email eric@gachesbraden.com or at 785-233-4512 or you may also contact KPSC CEO Peter Stern at pstern@kspharmserv.com or at 785-228-1695.

Thank you.