

STATE OF KANSAS



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Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook, Chair
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Room 118-N
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: SB341 Opposition

Dear Chair Pilcher-Cook and Committee Members:

The National MS Society opposes SB 341. I am here to add my support of that opposition. MS is a debilitating disease that attacks the brain and the spinal chord with irreparable lesions. For some victims it is pain behind the eye called optical neuritis that can lead to temporary or permanent blindness, or lhermittes, a tingling pain when you bend your head to read or tie your shoes; or loss of muscle control to complete paralysis.

Young adults are most often affected, women twice as likely as men – often young women of child-bearing age. MS often goes undiagnosed until many lesions have formed in the brain and along the spinal cord. This disease has no known cause and no known cure.

Our youngest daughter, a victim of MS, is 33 years old with a 3 yr. old and a 3 month old. She is an assistant district attorney in Sedgwick County. It is

imperative that she remain healthy and mobile. When a generic drug became available to replace her effective prescription, her insurance company advised her that she would now take the generic form. Generic drugs can have up to a 20% range of difference from the original drug. She was forced to adjust her medication routine.

Due to the expense, another young woman, a niece, received similar information from her insurance provider after 25 years of successful treatment. The replacement drug caused her white blood cell count to drop drastically. She has now been waiting, drug free - going through the "steps"- since Nov. 30 ---and is bedridden!

It is unconscionable to pass legislation that would put the economic bottom line ahead of life saving, life stabilizing, pharmaceuticals that allow MS victims to continue as employable economic drivers of our state.

I respectfully urge the committee to consider the true ramifications and the human toll if SB 341 is passed without vigorous patient protections.

Sincerely,

Representative Sue Boldra

District #111