



Since 1894

To: House Committee on Appropriations  
Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair

From: Tucker A. Stewart, Associate Counsel

Re: **Opponent of H.B. 2759**

Date: March 21, 2018

*The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,200 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker cattle production, cattle feeding, dairy production, swine production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.*

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) is in opposition to HB 2759. HB 2759 removes the exemption from reporting to the Kansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (K-Tracs) for veterinarian-dispensed controlled substances. While KLA recognizes that this program is targeted to prevent opioid abuse, KLA questions whether it is necessary to subject veterinarians to this program. Currently 34 states exempt veterinarians from similar reporting requirements.

In January of 2013, the Veterinarian Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force, concluded that veterinarians dispensing controlled substances for outpatient use should remain exempt from reporting under K-Tracs. The report recognized that the instances of owners of animals using their pet's medications have been miniscule. Veterinarians prescribe very few opioids. In animals, opioids are most effective when given in the hospital environment, decreasing the amount of anesthesia needed and speeding recovery times, all while decreasing pain. Furthermore, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) already requires that veterinarians adhere to stringent regulations on appropriate methods of using, storing, handling, and prescribing these drugs. Veterinarians must register with the DEA to obtain a controlled substance permit allowing prescribing or dispensing. Veterinarians also already keep a log of how these types of controlled substances are used which get audited regularly.

Finally, it appears that the K-Tracs system may not be designed well for tracking controlled substance use in animals. Especially when considering it was built to provide patient information as a human. In the veterinary practice the patient is not the person but rather the animal.

KLA encourages this committee to reject HB 2759 and continue to exempt veterinarians from K-Tracs reporting requirements.