



To: House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Rachelle Colombo
Director of Government Affairs

Date: February 2, 2017

Subject: HB 2121; concerning reporting administration of vaccines

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on HB 2121, which mandates the reporting of all vaccinations administered by physicians and others authorized by law to administer vaccines. The required reports would be made to the appropriate state registry maintained by KDHE, in the manner and form as required by the Secretary.

KMS supports the goals and intent of the bill, which is to ensure that all vaccinations administered in the state are reported to the central immunization registry maintained by KDHE, WebIZ. Reporting of vaccinations can help ensure that individuals are vaccinated on time, and helps prevent over- and under- immunization of patients. It can be a very important resource to clinicians to help them get an accurate picture of their patients' immunization status at the point of care. Registries such as WebIZ also help the state public health agency meet its obligations to monitor and respond to emerging health issues from infectious diseases.

Although we do support the intent of the bill, we urge the Committee to adopt the amendment offered by Representative Eplee, which would delay the effective date of the requirement for three years. Because the physician community is still in the process of adoption of electronic medical records systems in their practices, it will take some time to complete the connections to WebIZ from multiple, disparate EMR systems. Additionally, for those practices that do not yet have EMR systems, documenting and reporting immunizations to the registry is a manual, time-consuming task, that has cost and work-flow implications for practices. We are concerned that if we mandated immediate compliance with the reporting obligation, it could have the unintended consequence of discouraging smaller clinics from even providing immunizations in their practices, which could adversely affect overall immunization rates. Obviously, that is an outcome that no one wants.

We would urge the Committee to report HB 2121 favorably, with the addition of the amendment delaying the effective date of the reporting requirement for three years. We would be happy to respond to any questions. Thank you.