

**SB 165 – Providing insurance coverage of opioid-related treatments and establishing standards for use of emergency opioid antagonists.**  
**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare**

**Neutral Testimony**

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Madame Chair Schmidt and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony upon SB 165. Our Board is supportive of the overall intent of the bill and of its preventative nature. It is our understanding that a balloon amendment either has been or will be proposed that addresses our request.

We are neutral to the current drafting of this bill as we believe that the word “ambulance service” needs to be removed from the definition of “First responder agency” (Page 2, Line 40). Ambulance services already meet or exceed the requirements listed for a “First responder agency” and the Board is working upon regulatory changes to allow all EMS providers to administer an opioid antagonist when indicated.

We believe that having “ambulance service” within this bill has the ability to create confusion and the possibility of having an ambulance service respond to two regulatory entities.

On confusion, this bill would require an ambulance service to have a physician medical director specifically for the agency’s emergency opioid antagonist program. Ambulance services are already required to have a physician medical director for all care being provided. Additionally, upon page 4, Lines 22-23, having ambulance service as part of the definition of First responder agency would mean that the ambulance service would need to coordinate its activities with itself.

We support and appreciate that this bill takes into account the need for medical oversight of the first responder agency and requires measures to ensure that EMS is contacted for any administration of this antagonist.

Our Board also supports access to opioid antagonists as we have recently started through the regulatory revision process to allow for all EMS providers to have the ability to administer naloxone for suspected opioid overdoses.

We feel that removal of “ambulance service” from Page 2, Line 40 does not affect the overall content of this bill, but minimizes any potential conflicts and unnecessary redundancies.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony on SB 165 and would appreciate your consideration and support to remove “ambulance service” as noted below. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

***Proposed amendment – Page 2 - Lines 39-41***

39 (4) "First responder agency" includes, but is not limited to, any law  
40 enforcement agency, fire department, ~~ambulance service~~ or criminal  
41 forensic laboratory of any city, county or the state of Kansas.