



KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CARING FOR KANSANS

Testimony: HB 2121 – Administration of Vaccines, Reports
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
March 14, 2017

By: Carolyn Gaughan, CAE, on behalf of KAFP (Written only)

Chairman Schmidt and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting the concept of HB 2121**, on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP). Our organization represents over 1,660 active, resident, student and life members across the state. The mission of KAFP is to promote access to, and excellence in, health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.

When I started as the Chapter Executive for KAFP many years ago, I received many invitations to participate in a wide variety of health-related coalitions. I asked the board to help prioritize what was the most important. The board said, “Focus on tobacco cessation and on immunizations.” That’s what I did. Dr. (Rep.) Eplee, who has championed this legislation, and I have served together for several years on a variety of immunization-related coalitions and he is a true champion for immunizations in our state.

We are aware that not every physician giving immunizations uses WEB-IZ, and that is unfortunate. Among their reasons: their staff may have to enter the information twice if their EMR doesn’t automatically “push” the info to WEB-IZ; they may have a high volume of immunizations that would take an extra position to get it done. However, we believe the positive health benefits outweigh these considerations.

The WEB-IZ immunization registry is an important part of the health records on both a personal and a population-based level. And as payment systems inch towards payment for value, not volume, physicians need to be able to show value by participating in the registry. There is some (limited) funding available to help bring EMRs to a more automated data input system.

For all these reasons we support HB 2121 especially with a 3-year time period to comply. Best wishes in all your deliberations. Please let me know if you have questions or need further information from KAFP.

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