

Testimony concerning HB 2030
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Presented by Alexandra Blasi, Executive Secretary
On behalf of
The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy
March 15, 2017

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this testimony in support of HB 2030. The Board of Pharmacy licenses a variety of organizations and individuals in relation to the practice of pharmacy, with the mission of ensuring that all persons and entities conducting business relating to the practice of pharmacy in this state are properly licensed and registered, in order to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. The amendments to K.S.A. 65-1635a proposed in HB 2030 would allow licensed pharmacists and pharmacy interns (students) to administer any type of vaccination to individuals 12 years of age or older. Currently, pharmacists may only administer vaccinations to individuals over 18 years of age, and may administer the influenza vaccination to individuals over six years of age.

Additional availability and convenience of vaccination offerings may increase the number of minors receiving vaccinations, thus impacting the number of vaccinations purchased and administered. Fiscal impact to consumers would be correlated with the cost of vaccination, but may be lessened by the convenience of additional availability. Furthermore, any increase in the number of minors vaccinated would likely have a positive impact on the costs of future healthcare-related expenditures in the form of preventing illness.

Pharmacists and pharmacy students/interns under the direct supervision and control of a pharmacist may only administer vaccinations after completion of a course of study and training, approved by the accreditation council for pharmacy or the board, in vaccination storage, protocols, injection technique, emergency procedures and recordkeeping. In addition, the individual must have taken a CPR course and have a current CPR certificate when administering any vaccine. In an effort to increase transparency of certified practitioners, the Board has incorporated new reporting and notification requirements so that the Board can maintain an active and current list of pharmacists and interns certified to administer vaccinations, which is also printed on the individual's license. Coming soon in 2017, we also hope to make a list of such providers readily available to the public on our website.

Pharmacists are also required to administer vaccines pursuant to a vaccination protocol; in other words, written protocol, agreed to by a pharmacist and a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, which establishes procedures, record keeping, and reporting requirements for administering a vaccine by the pharmacist for a specified period of time.

Of course, continued mandatory documentation regarding immunization records is paramount, including prompt reporting to an individual's primary-care provider and the appropriate county or state immunization registries, such as WebIZ.