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March 15, 2017

Testimony in Support of HR 2030

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee**

**Honorable Chair – Vicki Schmidt**

**Vice Chair – Barbara Bollier**

**Ranking Minority – Laura Kelly**

**Honorable Committee Members**

Good morning Ms. Chairman and other esteemed Senators of the Committee.  
Thank you for the opportunity in support of Bill Number 2030.

HB 2030 is actually a bill from the last session, that did not go forward. After several discussions with all the stakeholders involved through the Summer and Fall, we reached a compromise agreement to allow pharmacists and pharmacy interns with appropriate training to begin vaccinating patients age 12 and older. In current law pharmacists can immunize all adults 18 and older. This would move the bar down to age 12. The original bill was for 6 and older. But during discussion with pediatricians, family physicians, and internists it was clear that the attendant risks for children 6-11 was a valid concern. In addition, there was no meaningful need in this age group of 6-11. Our pediatric immunization rates are generally very good up to adolescents.

Unfortunately, Kansas is lagging significantly behind many other states for the administration of adolescent vaccinations for Meningitis, GU cancers, DTaP (to prevent Tetanus and Pertussis). Kansas languishes in the bottom quartile of 2 shot completion of MCV-4 (meningitis) vaccine at 63.7% well below the 80 % threshold advocated by Healthy People 20/20 Goals of 80%. And Kansas was the lowest in completion of the 2 shot HPV vaccine to prevent GU and oropharyngeal cancers of all 50 states. Kansas is at the 50% level for DTaP when compared to other states---lots of room for improvement.

By passing this bill we recognize our pharmacists as a great ally to help in the efforts to improve all of these immunization rates in Kansas. Obviously, it is often times easier to access these immunizations through your pharmacist because of expanded hours and less cost in some cases. Admittedly there can be access barriers to obtain these adolescent vaccines through physicians and public health clinics because of timing of appointments, days available in some areas, cost, etc.

As a practicing physician for 35 years plus I feel this is a good bill and an attempt to allow greater access for Kansas patient's to get the vaccinations that are so important and they need.