



Testimony re: HB 2030
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Presented by Michael Smith, Regional Director, Walgreens
March 15, 2017

Madam Chairman, Members of the Committee, my name is Michael Smith representing Walgreens.

With 72 store locations and more than 2,000 Kansas employees, Walgreens is proud to serve communities throughout the state. On behalf of Walgreens, I am writing in support of HB 2030 to expand pharmacist-administered immunizations.

Members of the Committee, as you know current law allows pharmacists to administer, without a prescription, the flu vaccine to patients age six and above, and all other vaccinations to patients 18 years of age and above. House Bill 2030, as amended, would simply allow pharmacists to administer all vaccinations without a prescription to patients age twelve and above.

This legislation is important because it will increase access and convenience for this population to immunizations. Under this legislation, younger Kansans can receive immunizations at pharmacies during convenient times and locations that fit their families' busy lifestyles, without an appointment, while maintaining the critical relationship with a primary care physician. With increased access to vaccinations, families can have their children receive routine vaccinations during evenings and weekends without an appointment.

Pharmacists are trained and qualified to administer vaccinations to this population today. Walgreens supported the original bill which allowed expanded authority starting at age 6 for all vaccinations, but Walgreens does support the compromise language for expanded authority starting at age twelve as the current bill reads. Broad public acceptance of community pharmacists not only creates better access but also facilitates additional health care touch points, which ultimately results in better health outcome.

Although a majority of individuals who receive immunizations have a primary care physician, many do not. A pharmacy can play an integral role in those individuals' healthcare, and ultimately help bring them into the broader healthcare system, which may include establishing a primary care physician.

Walgreens pharmacists are trusted and trained professionals who are qualified to administer all vaccinations to patients age seven and above. Kansas families and their children ought to have as accessible, convenient and affordable vaccinations as possible.

Thank you and I respectfully ask you to support HB 2030.