



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Submitted by Sam H. Boyajian RPh
Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation (KPSC)
Support for HB 2030
March 15, 2017

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Boyajian and I am the owner of Gardner Pharmacy in Gardner, Kansas. I am also representing the Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation (KPSC), which has served independent pharmacies across Kansas since 1985 with a very competitive national retail buying program. I served as Chairman of the KPSC Board of Directors in 2009 and have been a member of its Government Relations Committee for several years.

I have had the pleasure to serve my community for nearly 20 years. I have been a pharmacist for nearly 30 years and an immunizing pharmacist for 16 years. I have had the pleasure of administering close to 10,000 vaccines to grateful Kansans in that time. I respectfully request your support on House Bill 2030.

The bill, as amended, would allow pharmacists to be able to serve the needs of young Kansans down to the age of 12 for all vaccines. We supported the original version of this bill that lowered the age to six, but in an effort to compromise with the other healthcare stakeholders, we supported the amendment to set the age at 12.

Pharmacists certified in vaccine administration have the knowledge, training, and experience, to safely help Kansas physicians get our immunization rates for young Kansans to a better level. For example, currently Kansas ranks 39th out of 50 states in pre-teen and teen vaccination rates. Meningococcal rates are 15% below the national average and our HPV rates for girls are dead last in the country. KPSC and I believe that together, we can do better.

It is important to remember that pharmacists are bound by strict laws concerning vaccine administration, and operate completely under the protocol of a physician. Emergency procedures are also addressed within these protocols. Also, every vaccine given by a pharmacist is sent to the patient's primary physician for their records and are to be logged into the state registry. Surely, after all these years, the pharmacist's qualifications, abilities, and procedures should not be in question.

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Your Competitive Advantage

Currently, our physicians' offices have had their time and resources so overburdened that it often makes it extremely difficult for them to offer vaccinations for school age children. Some even have made the decision not to carry certain vaccines due to costs and time constraints.

Our low vaccination rates for this age group are not the fault of our physicians but of an overburdened system that requires "all hands on deck" if we can expect to get our vaccination rates where they belong. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to pick up the overflow of these unvaccinated young patients.

This is an important point, because while some might be concerned that this bill may have the effect of fewer office visits, I would contend that this bill would simply allow for young Kansans to get the vaccines they are needing but not currently getting as evidenced by our low vaccination rates. In short, this is really a matter of access to these important vaccines, and doing our best in helping to increase vaccination rates. I urge your support for HB 2030.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sam H. Boyajian RPh
Gardner Pharmacy