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Testimony in Opposition of SB377

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 your opportunity to speak in opposition to SB377.


SB377 in my humble opinion is nothing more than a 'therapeutic overreach' by the pharmacy industry. In simple words it is a turf war now commenced by the pharmacy lobby. The bill imposes minimal limitations on the administration of injections and coupled with SB387 allows PHD Pharmacists the full access of the practice of primary care. The unintended consequences of this bill will lead to increase fragmentation of care when we are suppose to be promoting a 'patient centered medical home' that knows your entire health history-not just one injection!

Last year you may recall I spoke in strong support of pharmacists to have expanded scope of Practice for adolescent immunizations down to age 12 only, to facilitate and improve access to care for Public Health purposes. There was a great Public Health need in this focused area and HB2030 addressed that and was easily passed and is now law. But there was no intention or was there ever any demostable need to expand the injection of other meds by pharmacists. As a physician legislator I've now matured to see the expression played out. -"If you give'em an inch, they'll want a mile."

And while pharmacist PHDs are highly trained to give injections, their education and training in the appropriate clinical indications and expected long term outcomes is very limited. I know this because

I have trained pharmacy students at our critical access hospital in Atchison. PHD pharmacists have a fraction of the clinical contact afforded MDs in primary care.

And so for the reasons of practice overreach, fragmentation of care, undermining the evolving model of "Patient Centered Medical Home", lack of adequate training, and no demonstrable need I urge your opposition to SB377.



John Eplee M.D.
Representative 63 District