

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on March 16, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
JoAnn Buntun, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bob Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Pharmacists Association
Sally Finney, representing Kansas Public Health Association, Inc.
Chris Collins, Director of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Medical Society
Tim Moore, M.D., Department of Health, KDHE

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing on HB 2759 - Pharmacists authorized to administer drugs under certain conditions

Bob Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Pharmacists Association, testified before the Committee in support of **HB 2759** which would allow pharmacists to administer adult vaccinations (eighteen years and over). Mr. Williams noted that the bill requires pharmacists to obtain a vaccination protocol with a physician and successfully complete a course of study and training approved by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education or the State Board of Pharmacy. The pharmacist may not delegate to any person the authority granted under the act to administer a vaccine. He pointed out that according to the World Health Organization more than half of elderly Americans do not receive a flu vaccinations. (Attachment 1)

Sally Finney, representing the Kansas Public Health Association, Inc., expressed her support for **HB 2759** and noted that allowing pharmacists to administer immunizations would be a positive step towards reducing serious health complications and deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases in Kansas. She also urged the Committee to not amend the bill to limit its scope to just influenza and pneumonia. (Attachment 2)

Chris Collins, Director of Governmental Affairs, Kansas Medical Society, expressed her support for the intent of **HB 2759** but cautioned the Committee that the bill also raises the specter of future scope of practice concerns. Ms. Collins proposed an amendment that would limit the administering of vaccines to just influenza or pneumonia as shown in a balloon of the bill attached to her written testimony. (Attachment 3)

Tim Moore, M.D., Department of Health, KDHE, speaking for Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino, expressed support for the bill and noted that this proposed legislation would make vaccines more easily accessible especially in the rural areas. He also brought the Committee's attention to the importance of accurate record keeping that would show what vaccines each individual received in order to prevent the administration of unnecessary vaccinations to individuals already immunized. He also felt the standards adopted in protocols should be equivalent to those in place in private medical practices where immunization records are usually retained for at least ten years. Other issues Dr. Moore asked the Committee to consider related to whether pharmacists would forward a notice regarding the vaccination to the "medical home" of each individual they immunize and whether a pharmacist would be able to access medical records containing information on previous immunizations received by an individual. (Attachment 4) Written testimony expressing concerns with the bill was received from Keith Wright, MD, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians. (Attachment 5)

During Committee discussion Chip Whelan, Kansas Osteopathic Medicine, called the Committee's attention to the liability issue and the "Vaccine Injury Compensation Act" enacted by Congress. Other concerns that were discussed by the Committee related to physician protocol and insurance reimbursement. Two issues raised were the necessity of immunization records should be submitted to the primary care physician, and if no primary physician is available, the pharmacist should encourage the vaccinee to obtain one. The Chair noted that staff will draft a balloon of the bill showing the proposed amendments that were suggested for the Committee's consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2000.