

Testimony concerning HB 2488
House Committee on Education
Presented by Alexandra Blasi, Executive Secretary
On behalf of
The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy
January 29, 2020

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this testimony in support of HB 2488. The bill would amend and update the opportunity for pharmacists to distribute, schools to maintain, and school nurses to administer emergency epinephrine and albuterol at schools and school events. While some of these provisions are already allowed in Kansas, the Board has encountered obstacles in adopting regulations consistent with current law to enable pharmacists and schools to effectively implement the objectives of the original legislation. In addition, current law creates liability waivers for all involved parties except the pharmacists, which has served as a barrier to pharmacist participation.

The Board strongly supports the amendments being offered and appreciates the opportunity to work with the Kansas School Nurses Organizations and other stakeholders on this final version presented to the Committee for consideration. The Board notes several key points within the bill language that are crucial to its effectiveness:

- The bill expands the emergency medications available to include both epinephrine and albuterol.
- The bill allows administration to any individual at the school or school-sponsored event.
- The bill changes the role of the pharmacist to align with industry standards and practices. The new language allows the pharmacist to distribute the medication and equipment pursuant to a valid prescription in the name of the school and places the responsibility for nurse training or consultation with the prescriber.
- The bill appropriately defines terms and establishes necessary policy, procedure, training and consultation requirements to ensure public health and safety.
- And finally, the bill includes a liability waiver for pharmacists distributing epinephrine and albuterol to the school pursuant to a valid prescription.

Simply stated, this bill corrects many of the unforeseen issues in the original legislation to ensure these important medications are available in the event of a school emergency. The Board finds this bill consistent with many other states and supports passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Blasi, JD, MBA
Executive Secretary