

**Testimony for House Bill 2598**  
**House Insurance Committee**  
**By Marva Homrighausen, State of Kansas Retiree**  
**Paola, Kansas**  
**February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Chairman Vickrey and Members of the Committee:

I am Marva Homrighausen and I am here today to ask for your support for HB 2598.

As a State of Kansas Retiree, my current experience began in November 2019 when the State of Kansas discontinued the state contract with my Part D prescription plan provider. This forced me to choose another state approved insurance provider. After much calling and counseling, my decision was to choose the Premier Part D plan through the newly awarded insurance provider.

Since I am prescribed Humira Pens, which is a Tier 5 biologic drug, it is very important that I receive good coverage for this drug. As a Tier 5 drug the cost is \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month plus \$191.60 for my monthly insurance premium. As a Tier 5 drug, it requires a pre-authorization from my physician yearly. This was sent after January 1, 2020.

By accident, I found out I could no longer use my current Specialty Pharmacy, located in Lenexa, Kansas. I was in shock. I have used this pharmacy since my first Humira prescription on August 12, 2010. My new State of Kansas Retiree Program approved Pharmacy Benefit Manager did not inform me I could no longer use my current pharmacy, nor was there any mention of me having to use their mail order pharmacy located in Ohio. Knowing that I could no longer use my Lenexa KS Specialty Pharmacy, I immediately went to my local pharmacy in Paola and talked to the pharmacist and owner. I went to my Local Community Pharmacist for counseling as to what options I had with regards to my Humira prescription. I use my Local Community Pharmacy for all of my other prescription needs, and I was happy to learn that my Local Community Pharmacy could accommodate my current prescription for Humira. I had no idea that was an option over these past nine years. I was told I needed to use a Specialty Pharmacy for my Humira Pens.

I was thrilled to learn that I could use my Local Community Pharmacy to fill my Humira prescription! In the meantime, my new Pharmacy Benefit Manager, denied my Physician's first attempt at authorization for Humira coverage and I had to file an appeal. I won the appeal in a letter received January 28, 2020 stating that I had coverage from January 21, 2020 thru January 13, 2021. I received my first Humira prescription from my Local Community Pharmacy and I thought all was set and I was ready to go.

Of course, that was not true. The next problem happened on January 31, 2020. I received a call to set up delivery of my Humira Pens from the Pharmacy Benefit Manager's Mail Order Pharmacy, located in Ohio. I told the representative that I had never requested this, nor did I want this to happen and that I had already discussed and made arrangements to fill my Humira prescriptions through my Local Community Pharmacy in Paola. She said those instructions were recorded and that I would not be called again regarding this matter.

Then on February 4 2020, I was notified by my physician that they had sent my prescription to the Mail Order Pharmacy on that date. I had not requested that they send any prescriptions anywhere other than my Local Community Pharmacy. At that time I notified my physician that I did not want my Humira Prescription sent to a Mail Order Pharmacy. I then called the Specialty Mail Order Pharmacy, and was assured at that time that they had no prescription on file for me so nothing could be filled onsite and that the prescription was transferred to my Local Community Pharmacy on January 31, 2020.

I called my Local Community Pharmacist to ask whether or not they had communicated with either the Specialty Mail Order Pharmacy, or my Physician's office regarding my prescription being sent to mail order, and whether or not the Specialty Mail Order Pharmacy had transferred the prescription back to his pharmacy. He had spoken to no one at either the Specialty Mail Order Pharmacy or my Physicians office regarding my Humira, and no prescription had been transferred to my Local Community Pharmacy from the Mail Order Pharmacy.

How did the Specialty Mail Order Pharmacy have access to my medical information? How would they have known that I was on Humira? I am concerned about how my Private Medical Information was shared between the Pharmacy Benefit Manager who was responsible for addressing my Prior Authorization and the Specialty Mail Order Pharmacy in Ohio.

After all of this my question to you is, why does the Pharmacy Benefit Manager have all the rights and I have none? After being covered by at least three Part D insurance companies since August 12, 2010, all through the State Retiree Insurance Plan, I had never been told I could use any pharmacy of my choice, especially a pharmacy in my rural Kansas hometown. My new Pharmacy Benefit Manager did not inform me that I could use any pharmacy of my choice, and in fact immediately tried to STEER my prescription to a Mail Order Pharmacy in Ohio. Had I not spoken to my Local Community Pharmacist about my options and stopped this from happening, I would have been locked in to receiving my prescription from Ohio. If this had happened, all my thousands of dollars in copay money would have gone to Ohio and I would assume all the taxes involved would also end up in Ohio. Can't we do better than this? Please show the people of Kansas that we, too, have rights involving our pharmacy choices.

Thank you for your work and support of this House Bill 2598. House Bill 2598 provides for much-needed oversight of PBMs in Kansas. HB 2598 will assist in providing patients and payors in the state the information and the environment they need to make the best decisions regarding where they get their medications, how much they pay, and who they have assisting them in achieving their best health.

Thank you, Chairman and Committee Members, for your consideration of HB 2598.