

Testimony for House Bill 2598  
House Insurance Committee  
Laura Ard  
Wellsville, Kansas  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Chairman Vickrey and Members of the Committee:

I am Laura Ard. I am writing this to you today to ask for your support for HB 2598.

My husband and I have different insurance companies but yet they both request the same process for recurring medicines. They want us to do mail order.

We live in a rural area so therefore refused to do the mail order for 2 main reasons.

- #1 – Someone could easily get the medicine out of the box. A locked box is very expensive and still does not prevent someone from taking the whole box.
- #2 - Most medicines are suppose to be in a controlled temperature. Living in Kansas the temperatures go from below 0 to the 100's. On hot days, the temperature inside a mail box would be even hotter.

The alternative from both insurance companies is to use CVS Retail Pharmacy: This requires us to drive to the city which means adding gas prices into the cost of the medicines as well as to losing time of 40 minutes each trip there and back.

- In comparison: to go to the pharmacy here in town would only take 8 minutes there and back. This really takes a toll on someone who is aging and suffering from fatigue.

I feel that the Kansas Legislature should put a stop to these mandated practices by big corporations. For the local pharmacists – big corporate mandating is simply stealing their business.

I am proud to be able to support HB 2598. This bill provides for much-needed oversight of PBMs in Kansas. HB 2598 will assist in providing patients and payers 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, for your consideration of HB 2598.