



Written Testimony for Senate Bill 168  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Presented by Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director  
Kansas Pharmacists Association - Topeka, Kansas  
February 10, 2022

Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee:

I am Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director for the Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA). The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association that represents Kansas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists from all practice settings. I am providing this written testimony to you today to ask for your support for SB 168.

KPhA believes that SB 168 will increase the flexibility, usability, efficiency, and maximize the provider benefit of the K-TRACS system. It is through the thoughtful work of the K-TRACS Advisory Council and the professional guidance of the Board of Pharmacy staff that you have the bill before you today. Throughout this process, the needs and concerns of the provider and patient have been at the forefront in all discussions and have been heavily considered in the formulation of the updates to the Prescription Monitoring Program Act (the Act) you have before you today. We agree with the Board that there is consensus support for the outlined changes to the Act.

From the provider perspective, SB 168 will allow K-TRACS to continue to evolve. This evolution will make K-TRACS easier to use and will facilitate better integration into pharmacy workflow by allowing delegate access to the system. As pharmacies continue to become busier and busier, the ability to designate a pharmacy technician as a delegate to check K-TRACS during the prescription process will allow pharmacists to spend more time actively engaged with patients, while still allowing for full utilization of the K-TRACS system in the pharmacy. The outcome of this better patient care.

We are also appreciative and fully supportive of changes included in the bill that will provide better protection for patient information while also increasing the accuracy of that data. Allowing the Advisory Committee to identify use cases and activate additional features in K-TRACS will continue to add value to the system for providers and will support better patient health. In addition, the ability of researchers to access K-TRACS data through either patient agreements or through the use of de-identified, aggregated data will provide positive benefits to the state and has the opportunity to facilitate research on the impact of medications reported to K-TRACS that up until now has been either missing or incomplete.

SB 168 is a positive next step for the continued development of the K-TRACS program. KPhA is fully supportive of the continued development of this program and believe that the items included in SB 168 provide a positive framework for the next step in that development. We appreciate your consideration and respectfully ask for your support of SB 168.