

Testimony concerning HB 2547
House Committee on Health and Human Services
January 30, 2024

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this testimony in support of HB 2547. 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 pharmacists, which has served as a barrier to pharmacist participation.

The Board strongly supports amendments being suggested and appreciates the opportunity to work with the Kansas School Nurses Organizations and other stakeholders over the past few years to identify barriers and propose solutions, none so imperative than this legislation. The Board notes several key points that are crucial to effectiveness:

- Expanding the emergency medications available to include both epinephrine and albuterol.
- Allowing for administration to any individual at the school or school-sponsored event.
- Changing the role of the pharmacist to align with industry standards and practices by allowing the pharmacist to distribute the medication and equipment pursuant to a valid prescription in the name of the school and placing the responsibility for nurse training or consultation with the prescriber.
- Defining terms and establishing necessary policy, procedure, training, storage, and consultation requirements to ensure public health and safety.
- And finally, including a liability waiver for pharmacists distributing epinephrine and albuterol to the school pursuant to a valid prescription.

Simply stated, these efforts correct 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 the language consistent with many other states and supports passage.

Respectfully submitted.