



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society

Date: March 12, 2024

Subject: HB 2579; EMS distribution of over-the-counter medications

The Kansas Medical Society (KMS) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments in support of HB 2579. KMS is the only statewide association advocating for physicians in every specialty and is dedicated to improving the environment in which Kansas physicians practice medicine and to protecting the health of Kansans.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2579, which authorizes an emergency medical responder to distribute non-prescription over-the-counter (OTC) medications as approved by the service medical director. Rightly, the bill says that an emergency medical responder shall not distribute OTC medications that contain detectable amounts of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine that could be a precursor to the production of methamphetamine.

HB 2579 equips EMS providers with more resources to treat patients with medications that are safe for general use and will help to prevent emergency situations and unnecessary hospital visits. We support the restrictions and requirements around over the counter medications to ensure proper use and physician oversight.

KMS supports common sense legislation that improves patient outcomes without jeopardizing quality care for Kansans. We believe this bill does just that. Thank you for considering these comments in support of HB 2579.