INDEPENDENT PHARMACY ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS

February 13, 2026

Chairman Carpenter and House Health and Human Services Committee Members,

My name is Chellie Ortiz and I am the President of the Independent Pharmacy Association of Kansas (IPAK). IPAK represents all independent pharmacies in Kansas. Pharmacists are a vital healthcare provider for patients.

I am writing to submit neutral testimony on HB 2718 with questions about unintended ramifications this bill might have. Many independent pharmacies work hand-in-hand with local care facilities to provide pharmaceutical care to their residents. The services these pharmacies provide go far beyond dispensing of medications – they administer vaccinations, provide counseling and education to not just patients but to their families and care providers, they special package medications to make administration and adherence easier.

Disrupting these types of services that partner pharmacies have with the care facilities could have a rapid, negative impact on the health of residents. Not to mention the burden that would be placed on the facility staff to manage medications coming in from multiple different sources. Who will provide vaccinations which are crucial to maintain health in these facilities? How will acute/urgent medications be obtained? Who will the staff and family go to for counseling and education when there are questions or concerns about medication therapies? Proper pharmaceutical care for patients reaches far beyond dispensing of medications.

We just became aware of HB 2718 and believe that it needs discussion with the impacted parties to more clearly define the intent of the bill and vet the potential ramifications of this legislation on the residents of care facilities throughout Kansas. It is critical that pharmaceutical care provided to these residents be consistent to maintain the health and safety of not just the residents, but the staff as well.

For the sake of the continuity of care for the residents of adult care homes, we request that HB 2718 be paused for further discussion.

Respectfully,

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