

Testimony for House Bill 2263 Authorizing Pharmacy Technicians to Administer Certain Vaccines Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee By Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director Kansas Pharmacists Association - Topeka, Kansas March 15th, 2023

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of our 1,800 member pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy students. The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association representing pharmacy professionals in all practice settings. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 2263.

HB 2263 would allow Kansas pharmacies to continue utilizing appropriately trained pharmacy technicians to provide timely vaccination services to their patients. Since October 2020, pharmacy technicians in the state have been able to administer vaccines under the authority of the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act). In response to the call to action for an expanded vaccination workforce, Kansas pharmacies trained hundreds of pharmacy technicians to address the workload of COVID, flu, and other vaccines over the last two and a half years. KPhA worked with faculty from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy to quickly develop and provide accredited training to 460 pharmacy technicians statewide. In addition, the chain pharmacies in the state trained hundreds more technicians to administer vaccines. Without these pharmacy technicians, many of our communities would have experienced delayed responses to the demand for vaccines. We are proud to have been a resource to pharmacy technicians and their pharmacies for training and technical support and to represent them as members of KPhA.

HB 2263 updates Kansas statutes to allow pharmacy technicians to work under the supervision of a pharmacist with a valid vaccine protocol to administer vaccinations. The pharmacy technician would be able to provide vaccinations to the same population as the supervising pharmacist, would have to complete an approved training program on vaccine administration, and would be required to be certified in CPR.

This bill will allow pharmacies to continue to utilize pharmacy technicians to provide timely patient care, supporting local community health efforts and maximizing access to care. In addition, it also provides technicians an opportunity to develop additional skills and creates greater professional satisfaction. Over the last two and a half years, pharmacy technicians have safely given tens of thousands of vaccinations to Kansans, and HB 2263 allows us to grow upon that success.

Madame Chair and Committee, thank you for your consideration of HB 2263.

I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.