

March 18th, 2025

Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance
State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Health Forward Foundation support of House Bill 2081 – sales tax exemption for community based pharmacies.

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this written-only testimony in support of House Bill 2081. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities. We support this legislation as it would help promote the health of communities and to counteract ‘pharmacy deserts’ that are springing up.

HB 2081 helps to support community pharmacies, who play a significant role in health care for communities across Kansas and the United States. Community pharmacies provide millions of prescriptions for communities and help in key areas such as hypertension, overdoses, and reproductive health care, according to an article in the [Journal of American Medical Association](#). Providing for some sales tax exemption would go a ways in ensuring the vibrancy of these critical retail locations.

Additionally, HB 2081 helps to counteract the alarming trend of ‘pharmacy deserts’ that has been coming to the fore in urban and rural communities alike. According to [a recent study](#), almost 16 million people in the United States live in a pharmacy desert. Ensuring that people have easy access to affordable pharmacy services is key in promoting health and other social outcomes.

Health Forward asks legislators on this committee to vote yes on HB 2081. We need to make sure that community pharmacies are robust and provide for the needs of their communities. Please feel free to reach out to me at nmadden@healthforward.org if you have any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully,

Nathan J. Madden, Ph.D.
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Health Forward Foundation