



All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

PSALM 25:10

Mercy & Truth Healthcare Ministry
Proponent Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 284
Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee

March 17, 2025

Chair Dietrich and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share why SB 284 is so important to Mercy & Truth Healthcare Ministry and the nearly 5,000 patients we serve annually in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties in the State of Kansas.

At Mercy & Truth, we believe that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay. Every day, we meet people who are struggling not just with illness, but with the impossible decisions that sometimes come with it. Some of our patients are parents who are choosing between rent and their child's medication. Some of our patients are seniors cutting pills in half to make them last longer. Hardworking Kansans who never thought they'd need help, suddenly find themselves without options.

Those are just some of reasons why the 340B program is so critical for our patients, but it's also critical for us as a community health center. It allows us to maximize our limited resources so we can serve more people, more effectively. It's not just about prescriptions for our patients; it's also an income stream that supports the affordable care we provide for them ensuring that no one has to go without the treatment they need. Through 340B, we work hand-in-hand with our on-site contract pharmacy partner, Pharmacy of Grace, to help patients afford the medications they need and rely on, removing yet another barrier that could stand between them and their health.

However, recent actions by pharmaceutical manufacturers are putting all of this at risk. By restricting access and creating unnecessary hurdles, they are making it harder for patients to get the care they depend on. That's why SB 284 matters: it protects the intent and integrity of the 340B program and ensures that we can continue to be there for the people who need us most and deserve our help!

Why We Support SB 284

SB 284 addresses a growing problem that directly affects our patients. It stops pharmaceutical manufacturers from interfering with contract pharmacy arrangements that help make discounted medications accessible to the people who need them most. Without these contracts, many of our patients would lose access to affordable prescriptions, forcing them to go without or to make dangerous compromises with their health.

The bill also prevents manufacturers from requiring excessive, non-essential data from healthcare providers like us. While manufacturers claim this information is needed for oversight, in reality, it places unnecessary burdens on organizations already stretched thin. The requirements go beyond what's legally mandated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), adding paperwork and bureaucracy that take away from what matters most: caring for our patients.

What the 340B Program Means for Mercy & Truth Healthcare Ministry

For Mercy & Truth, 340B is not just a cost-saving program, it's a lifeline. The savings allow us to keep our clinics running, expand our services, and reach more people who would otherwise have nowhere to turn for healthcare.

- **Keeping Care Affordable:** We reinvest every dollar of 340B savings into patient care whether it's offering affordable doctor visits, funding mental health services, or covering the cost of life-saving medications.
- **Helping More Patients:** Each year, we treat thousands of people managing conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and depression. Without this program, many of them would have no way to afford the medications they need.
- **Reaching More Communities:** Contract pharmacies play a huge role in helping us serve more patients. These partnerships allow people to pick up their medications closer to home, making healthcare more convenient, affordable and accessible.
- **Passing Savings Where They Belong:** We make sure that the discounts we receive directly benefit our patients. Whether that means lower costs at the pharmacy or expanded services in our clinics, these savings make a real difference in people's lives.

Conclusion

The 340B program is about more than just numbers. It's about real people, real families, and real lives. Without it, many Kansans would face heartbreaking choices between their health and their basic needs. That's why we urge you to support SB 284. This bill protects patient access to affordable care and ensures that organizations like Mercy & Truth can keep doing what we do best: serving the people who need us most...with Life-changing care!

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your dedication to the health of all Kansans.

Sincerely,



Brent Morris
Chief Executive Officer

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