

STATE OF KANSAS  
SENATE CHAMBER

STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-6981  
michael.murphy@senate.ks.gov



35810 W.GREENFIELD RD.  
SYLVIA, KANSAS 67581  
(620) 204-0416

MICHAEL MURPHY  
34TH DISTRICT

Written only PROPONENT testimony for SB284.

Chair Dietrich and members of the committee:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer proponent testimony for SB284. I would prefer to testify in person but I would like other conferees present to have more time.

One year ago I'd never even heard of the 340B drug program. I received a phone call asking if I'd be willing to bring an amendment to protect this vital program. Before committing I had to learn everything I could, and that education convinced me this was vital, especially in my rural district.

I was told a senator had offered an amendment to the budget protecting the program and I agreed to offer the same amendment on the House side. It was a tough fight but the amendment passed with 77 votes. Later a "poison pill" was adopted in the omnibus which was later line item vetoed by the governor. Since this was only a budget amendment it has a life of two years. Also as such it had limited enforcement teeth.

What I have learned after that first phone call and subsequent months is how vital this program is to rural Kansas. In fact, not just Kansas but nationally. 30 states have passed or have pending legislation protecting this program. Kansas is not unique in that sense.

What is at stake now is the very survival of countless pharmacies along with clinics and rural hospitals. I know other conferees will go into the specifics of the program and how it relates to healthcare for Kansans so I will not repeat that here.

Passing SB284 is something we can do to help our healthcare system and Kansans without a single tax dollar being spent! I urge passage of SB284.

Respectfully submitted,

Sen Michael Murphy, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist