



# Kansas Region III EMS Council

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January 30, 2024

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Representative Brenda Landwehr & Committee Members

**Subject:** Testimony in Support HB 2579 allowing EMS to distribute over the counter medications

Greetings, I am writing on behalf of the Kansas Region III EMS Council to express our strong support for House Bill 2579, a vital piece of legislation concerning health professions and practices.

The Kansas Region III EMS Council represents a diverse coalition of emergency medical service providers, professionals, and stakeholders committed to ensuring the highest standards of pre-hospital care for the residents of our region. We believe that HB 2579 introduces crucial changes that align with the evolving needs of our communities and contribute to the improvement of emergency medical services.

One of the key provisions of HB 2579 that we wholeheartedly endorse is the authorization of the distribution of non-prescription over-the-counter medications. This proposed amendment will empower EMS providers to distribute essential OTC medications promptly, enhancing their ability to address a broader spectrum of medical conditions in the field.

By allowing EMS providers to carry and distribute non-prescription medications, the proposed changes in HB 2579 acknowledge the dynamic nature of pre-hospital care and the growing need for expanded capabilities. This amendment will undoubtedly contribute to improved patient outcomes, particularly in situations where timely distribution of over-the-counter medications can make a significant difference alleviating lasting patient conditions.

## **Amendment Request:**

This bill does represent an opportunity to correct a long-standing issue that will align the statute to actual EMS daily practice. The existing statute requires EMS providers to “Maintain” contact with a physician when requesting medical orders. In reality, EMS providers contact physicians for orders but do not maintain constant contact. I do request the bill be amended to address this issues: The amendment would require the striking part of Line 12,13 & 14: *“when authorized by medical protocols, or upon order ~~when direct communication is maintained by radio, telephone or video conference is monitored~~ by a physician...”*

Amend to read: *“when authorized by medical protocols, or upon order **from** a physician...”*

Thank you for your consideration of this request.  
Respectfully

Dave Johnston, Chairman, Region III EMS Council