



**Written testimony to the House Education Budget Committee  
regarding House Bill No. 2236**

Submitted: Monday, February 25, 2013

Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2236, also referred to as the Pharmacy Student Loan Act. We believe this bill would create a powerful incentive for students to pursue pharmacy careers in Kansas. Not only would this bill benefit individual students, but it would also help keep our most talented graduates here in Kansas and address a crucial workforce need.

Kansas faces an urgent shortage of pharmacists, particularly in rural communities. There are currently 34 counties that have just one pharmacy and six counties that have no pharmacy at all. That means thousands of Kansans must travel significant distances to get the pharmacy care services they need – or they might go without such care altogether. This lack of healthcare access is one of the main reasons for the continued population decline in rural Kansas.

As Kansas' only pharmacy school, the KU School of Pharmacy takes seriously its obligation to serve all regions of the state. That's why in 2011, we opened the new KU School of Pharmacy campus in Wichita, specifically to train pharmacists for careers in rural Kansas. Additionally, through preceptorship and mentorship programs, our students work alongside pharmacists statewide in a variety of settings, including community and retail pharmacies, hospitals, managed care facilities and more. The Pharmacy Student Loan Act dovetails perfectly with these activities and would create a strong incentive for Kansas pharmacists to study and, most importantly, stay in Kansas.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Ken Audus  
Dean, KU School of Pharmacy