



Testimony for House Bill 2121

House Health and Human Services Committee

By Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director

Kansas Pharmacists Association, Topeka Kansas

February 2, 2017

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

I am Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director for the Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA). The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association that represents Kansas pharmacists from all practice settings. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of KPhA in support of House Bill 2121. This bill requires anyone authorized to administer vaccines in the state to report all vaccines to the state immunization registry.

The state has an industry leading immunization registry and should use it to its highest potential. Utilization of the immunization registry by all Kansas vaccinators will create a safer and more transparent immunization environment for all patients and providers. By having all immunizations in one system providers will be able to recall, almost instantaneously, whether a patient has had all their required vaccinations regardless of where they received them. This tool helps to reduce the likelihood of missed immunizations. Complete patient records in the immunization registry also minimize the likelihood of a patient receiving unnecessary or duplicate immunizations simply because the patient or the patient's caretaker cannot remember if they have received a particular immunization. These duplicate immunizations not only are time consuming for the provider and the patient, but are also costly. As an example, Prevnar 13, a common pneumococcal vaccine, cost approximately \$200 per dose. Through the immunization registry the state also captures allergic reactions and contraindications that, when known, can reduce the likelihood of an adverse event during future immunizations.

This system, if fully populated with all immunization data on an individual, also makes it easier for families with school age children and those traveling overseas to areas with specific vaccination requirements to retrieve their immunization history when and where they need it. Complete records are accessed through a simple interface with the system that can be securely viewed in schools, local health departments, and any participating provider's office.

As health care providers, pharmacists recognize the incredible impact and value of modern immunizations to both the individual and to the public health of our state. We also are dedicated to the protection of the patient and appropriate care, and see the value of HB 2121 in helping deliver on both of these goals.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 2121.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Dunkel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aaron Dunkel
Executive Director
Kansas Pharmacists Association