

STATE OF KANSAS



BOARD OF PHARMACY
800 S.W. JACKSON ST., SUITE 1414
TOPEKA, KS 66612

PHONE: (785) 296-4056
FAX: (785) 296-8420
pharmacy@ks.gov
www.pharmacy.ks.gov

GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.
ALEXANDRA BLASI, J.D., M.B.A., EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Testimony concerning SB 312
House Committee on Health and Human Services
March 14, 2018

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to SB 312, as written. Specifically, the Board has identified four concerns about the language in Section 2, subsection (d)(17), which would permit dental therapists to dispense and administer certain medications. Upon visiting with proponents of this bill, the Board now believes that it was not the intent to provide such broad sweeping authority for dental therapists to dispense and administer medications. Therefore, the Board strongly supports amending the language in this section to ensure proper supervision, regulation, and oversight necessary to protect the public.

The bill allows dispensing and administration of the listed medications pursuant to a prescription from any licensed healthcare provider. In effect, this would allow a dental therapist to send patients home with a prescription for antibiotics for a UTI, ear infection, or more serious infection if the patient had a prescription from a licensed healthcare provider. Additionally, there is no requirement to verify the prescription and no limitation on the number of days supply or quantity dispensed. Dental therapists would not have the requisite education, training or experience to dispense or administer medications to patients for these other purposes. Moreover, the Board struggles to understand how or why it is not more appropriate for patients to have these prescriptions filled/dispensed at their local pharmacy.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to engage in a recent dialogue with the bill's proponents and has been told that dental therapists receive adequate training and the Dental Board would have authority to discipline a dental therapist that does not properly dispense, label, or counsel a patient regarding any medication dispensed. This is vital, as proper medication review, antibiotic stewardship, and consideration of patient allergies and possible drug interactions is paramount to patient safety.

The Board understands the need to improve access to dental services and oral healthcare in Kansas and supports that goal. Unfortunately, the current text of Section 2, subsection (d)(17) is too far-reaching and appears broader than the authority the proponents seek. To ensure adequate protections are in place, the Board recommends limiting dispensing and administration to only medications prescribed by a licensed dentist. Furthermore, these privileges should be limited to oral health or dental needs. Such an amendment would allow dental therapists to practice and provide necessary services to Kansans, and the Board is hopeful that this would be reasonable and agreeable to the bill's proponents and the Committee.

Respectfully submitted.