



Testimony for Senate Bill 69

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

By Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director

Kansas Pharmacists Association, Topeka Kansas

February 2, 2017

Chairman Schmidt 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 written testimony on behalf of KPhA in support of Senate Bill 69. This bill places a number of requirements on the KanCare program that are necessary to improve the relationship between providers and the program. Senate Bill 69 will help in directing behaviors that will result in more timely and better communication between the managed care organizations (MCOs) and providers, will reduce the administrative impact on providers, will reinforce what is already in the current MCO contracts but not always adhered to, and will strengthen the process by which individuals and providers can appeal decisions made by the MCOs in the management of their care.

The sections of the bill that KPhA are particularly supportive of are the sections that mandate a uniform methodology across the MCOs related to various administrative functions. We believe that creating uniform methods for provider credentialing, uniform rules for prior authorization, uniform appeals processes, and mandating uniform records with prescribed content being shared between parties all will reduce the administrative burden on the provider and will allow there to be a more transparent relationship between the provider, individual MCO, and the KanCare program. By minimizing time spent on administrative task our members have more time to do what they do best, care for patients.

While we understand the need for thorough and meaningful administrative practices in the management of any healthcare program, especially one with the size and complexity of KanCare, we also believe that those practices should be as streamlined as possible with the overarching goal of minimizing the administrative burden on all those involved. The current processes related to encounter data, credentialing, prior authorization, and appeals are not designed to maximize the benefit of these processes to KanCare as a whole and do not balance the burden on the provider with the value to the program. SB 69, while not fixing all the administrative issues surrounding KanCare, does identify several of the most frustrating, and common, interactions between providers and the MCOs and attempts to create a uniformity of process that should move the state in a positive direction.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 69.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Dunkel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Aaron Dunkel
Executive Director
Kansas Pharmacists Association