



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society

Date: February 12, 2018

Re: SB 387; authorizing a statewide protocol for the practice of pharmacy

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to SB 387, authorizing a statewide protocol for the practice of pharmacy. Currently, pharmacists can make adjustments to a prescription if they work in a one on one collaborative practice agreement with the prescribing physician. Under the new proposal, a statewide protocol would be set allowing for broader drug therapy management without a one to one relationship between the physician and pharmacist.

As with the other bill before you today, SB 387 represents a broad departure from current collaborative practice which is designed to maximize provider expertise and availability while ensuring quality patient care. Drug therapy management has been limited between individual physicians and pharmacists in the same way that other providers, such as APRNs, work under a one on one collaborative practice agreement. This approach allows maximum flexibility and delegation where there is confidence between providers and demonstrated competence, and ensures maximum protection for patients.

SB 387 expands of pharmacists' scope of practice through a statewide protocol in lieu of a collaborative practice agreement with a physician responsible for the overall treatment of the patient. A policy shift of this magnitude ought to be discussed among clinicians and thoroughly explored before a statutory change impacting patients is implemented. KMS has reached out to pharmacists about this and other proposals and would like the opportunity to engage in meaningful, comprehensive discussions among clinicians prior to the advancement of bills allowing non-physicians to practice medicine independently. We respectfully request your opposition to SB 387.