



February 6, 2019

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Vicki Whitaker, KAOM Executive Director

Subj: HB 2082 – allowing pharmacists to administer injections

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the Committee:

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM), founded in 1913, represents osteopathic physicians and the osteopathic profession in Kansas. Many of KAOM's members are osteopathic physicians practicing family medicine in rural areas of the state. At the direction of KAOM members, the association is providing comments in opposition to HB 2082 which allows pharmacists to administer injections **unless** a physician notes on the prescription it is not to be administered by a pharmacist. This opt-out of allowing pharmacists to give injections expands the pharmacists scope of practice into that of healing arts and the practice of medicine without express permission.

Allowing pharmacists to provide injections for medical conditions can already be done if the pharmacist and physician have a collaborative practice agreement delineating the provision of injections and medication by the pharmacist. Collaborative practice agreements are used to ensure the safety of patients, the continuity of the care they receive, and that patient care is noted in the patient's medical record. Pharmacists received the right to provide vaccines to Kansans, where it was deemed safe, in 2017. This was agreed upon because it promotes vaccinations which benefit the health and public safety of all Kansans.

No attempt has been made to discuss this issue with KAOM prior to the introduction of HB 2082. The expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice into the administration of medications presumes on the part of pharmacists an in-depth knowledge of the patient's medical history, allergies, and co-occurring medical conditions that just does not exist. This is dangerous and can result in harm to the patient. All physicians are required to carry medical malpractice insurance should something go wrong in the treatment of patients. Do pharmacists?

For these reasons, KAOM respectfully seeks your opposition to the passage of HB 2082.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.