

Special Committee on State Employee and Board Member Compensation  
Presented by Alexandra Blasi, Executive Secretary  
On behalf of  
The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy  
December 13, 2022

Chairman Waymaster and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this testimony regarding board member compensation in Kansas. The Board licenses individuals and facilities in relation to the practice of pharmacy, with the mission of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare. The Board is also responsible for overseeing, tracking, and monitoring the dispensing/sale of controlled substances, drugs of concern, and over-the-counter methamphetamine precursors. The Board appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony concerning this matter.

Board members in Kansas are currently compensated \$35 per day plus mileage to/from the meeting location. In addition, per diem rates are provided if the Board member lives more than 30 miles from the meeting location and the trip requires an overnight stay. Compensation is not provided to Board members for any committee or task force meeting they participate in or for any meeting preparation time. The Board holds at least six meetings each year, with one or two hosted virtually. The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Six members are licensed pharmacists with a minimum of five years of experience and the seventh is a member of the general public. While Board membership changes based on appointment terms, the current members reside in Iola, Kansas City, Lawrence, Scott City, Topeka, and Wichita.

Board members have not expressed any frustration of purpose at current compensation rates and certainly view their appointment as a public service to the profession and State. However, \$35 per day fails to appreciate the time and resources expended by board and commission members voluntarily giving their time and expertise to the state regulatory community. It also falls short of rates in other states and pales in comparison to volunteer stipends. Furthermore, there is no comparison between the compensation provided and costs associated with pulling a pharmacist out of the pharmacy for a one-day, eight-hour board meeting, which can range from \$500 - \$900 per person. This does not include costs if the pharmacist is the owner, the costs to patients/consumers, the time away from job and family, etc.

There would be a negligible impact on the Board budget to increase the daily compensation rate for board members. As the Executive Director, I would encourage the Committee to consider increasing this rate beginning in FY 2024. While current rates may not deter applying for a board or commission appointment in Kansas, increasing compensation is likely to improve recruitment opportunities and retention, especially for public members.

Respectfully submitted.