

Gary Deeter

Health and Human Services Committee

February 3, 2005

House Bill 2077 - Cancer Drug Repository Program

Mr Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Lynne Schlosser and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society. I will be brief in my comments as I think the bill really says it all.

Each year, millions on dollars of usable medications are being thrown away in our Health Care Facilities and Nursing Homes while thousands of Kansans do not have access to needed medications. The Establishment of a Cancer Drug Repository Program can provide medications to Kansans that would not other wise have be able to attain live saving drugs.

The idea for this legislation first surfaced in Ohio. A volunteer of the American Cancer Society's wife had lost her fight with cancer and he had \$10,000 worth of perceptions he had just refilled. He took the drugs to his local pharmacist in hopes that he could give them to someone else but instead, the pharmacist helped him to flush the medications down the toilet. He was devastated and decided he needed to find away to reuse individually bubble wrapped medications to benefit those in need, and the idea of a drug repository was born. I believe 18 other state have now followed suit with Ohio and passed simular legislation.

This bill is good politics, it is good for Kansas, and it will not only save the state dollars, but it will save lives.

Thank you.