

Testimony on HB 2077  
Health and Human Services Committee  
February 3, 2005

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: You were briefed yesterday on the specifics of HB 2077, therefore I will focus on the bill's objective.

Every year, literally millions of dollars worth of medications are thrown away in this country because the patient's prescription has been changed or the patient is deceased. Aside from environmental consequences in landfills and waste water treatment plants, there is a human cost associated with lost opportunities.

HB 2077 will permit the donation of medications within a program that makes those products available and affordable to persons in need. For example, Health Care Access in Lawrence relies on donations of time and services by health care physicians, pharmaceutical product donations by manufacturers, and cash contributions by individuals. Individuals, however, do not currently have the legal authority to donate approved, unopened medications.

Last week the Lawrence Journal World ran a 2 inch notice of HB2077 being introduced. That night a woman from Baldwin City called and reported that her husband had died of cancer last October. The widow had thrown out all of his medications except for a one month's supply of Arissa. She could not bear to throw away \$2,000 worth of medications.

I introduced a similar bill during the 2004 session, but pharmacy interests rightly raised questions about how the bill could be implemented. During hearings last year, no one opposed the bill's intent. With my encouragement, the Board of Pharmacy coordinated discussions and drafting of this bill. Again, to my knowledge no one opposes the bill's intent and I

believe that through the efforts of Debora Billingsley at the Board of Pharmacy we have addressed and resolved all previously identified problems associated with the bill's implementation.

A drug repository program has been developed in states as diverse as Nebraska, Ohio, and Virginia. I ask for your support of HB 2077 and will respond to questions.