

**Testimony concerning HB 2225: renal dialysis facility pharmacist consultant
House Health and Human Services Committee
Presented by Debra Billingsley
On behalf of
The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy
February 8, 2005**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Debra Billingsley, and I am the Executive Secretary for the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy. Our Board is created by statute and is comprised of six members, each of whom are appointed by the Governor. The Board is responsible for regulating the sale and quality of drugs, medicines, chemicals and poisons in the State of Kansas.

The Board has been relegated with the authority to license medicare approved renal dialysis facility pharmacies, pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1661. These facilities may be operated in a variety of ways. Patients may receive treatment at the facility or they may be sent home with drugs. Therefore, the renal dialysis facility stores prescription drugs for patient administration.

The Board of Pharmacy's mission is to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare regarding the drug delivery system. The Board is asking that the provision mandating that the Board provide a pharmacist consultant, make arrangements, or assist the facility in locating a pharmacist consultant be deleted. This should not be a function of the State Board of Pharmacy. We are not staffed or funded to act as an employment agency. Further, this language could imply that the Board staff a dialysis facility at our expense. The Board is not required to assist any other licensed entity, regardless of its profit or not for profit status and likewise the Board should not be required to assist renal dialysis facilities in this manner. The Board regards this duty as a function that should be assigned to an appropriate and proper employment agency. Therefore, we respectfully request that this statute be amended deleting the requirement that

the Board
assist renal dialysis pharmacies in what is viewed as an economic issue and not
one related to safety.

Thank you very much for permitting me to testify, and I will be happy to yield to
questions.