



TESTIMONY

House Committee on Health and Human Services

HB 2030

January 23, 2017

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding HB 2030. KAOM is opposed to HB 2030 in its current form.

KAOM respects and appreciates the important role of pharmacists in the health care delivery system. Their knowledge and expertise pertaining to medications is invaluable. Nor do we question the ability of properly trained pharmacists to administer injections. However, KAOM takes issue with pharmacists administering vaccines to children, particularly those children under the age of 12.

Allergic reactions to vaccines is not unusual. This is of concern when vaccinating young children in that a child's allergic reactions to compounds contained in vaccines are unknown. It is therefore important for the child to be in an environment where proper medical care can be immediately provided. We do not believe a retail pharmacy provides that environment should a young child have an adverse reaction. Young children have smaller tracheas than adults. Thus, their tracheas can close at a more rapid rate than an adult or older children, placing them at a higher risk.

It is important for physicians to monitor and log children's developmental progress. Each stage of the immunization schedule is an opportunity for the child to be evaluated by a physician or nurse who is trained to identify indication of illness, injury, or if the child is at an appropriate stage of development. This opportunity will be lost if young children do not see a physician or nurse.

We believe the above are sufficient reasons to oppose HB 2030. However, KAOM has indicated to pharmacy we would remove our objection if the age was raised to twelve and above.

Thank you.