

February 4, 2019

The Honorable Representative Brenda Landwehr
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka, KS

RE: House Bill 377 – Authorizing a pharmacist to administer a drug by injection

Dear Representative Landwehr and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) operating in Kansas, we would like to commend the committee for hearing House Bill 2082 and its willingness to work on this issue for continued public health and safety.

House Bill 2082 would update the pharmacy practice act to allow pharmacists to administer injectable medications to patients pursuant to a prescription order when authorized by the prescribing practitioner. Pharmacists are highly educated, trusted, and easily accessible healthcare professionals who provide patients with important patient care services. Notably, pharmacists, who are already permitted to administer vaccines to patients in the state, are well trained and experienced in drug administration techniques and practices (including for intermuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous and intradermal injections). Providing medication administration services is consistent with pharmacists' education and training.

Modernizing the law to permit this practice will allow pharmacists, who are now authorized to provide this service in 39 states¹, to better serve patients in the state of Kansas. Given the growing number of injected and infused medications on the market, this authority will allow Kansas pharmacists to offer medication administration services to patients who are currently limited in their ability to obtain these services from office-based providers, which is not always convenient for the patient (or the office-based provider) and can lead to noncompliance with prescribed therapies. This service also addresses the needs of patients who self-administer, or depend on their family or care giver to administer medications, which can be difficult for the patient and their family or care giver.

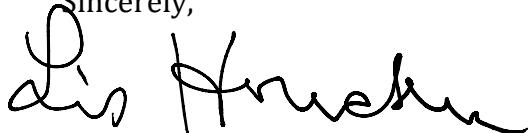
Allowing these patients to have the professional administration of their injectable medication takes away any fear on the part of the patient and their family or care giver.

¹ <https://naspa.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Med-Admin-Map-1.17.jpg>

For these reasons, we strongly support House Bill 2082 and would ask the Committee to pass the bill out without amendments at your earliest opportunity.

Thank you again for your willingness to take up this issue on behalf of the patients of the State of Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lis Houchen".

Lis Houchen
Regional Director, State Government Affairs
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