



**Testimony re: SB 200
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Presented by Mitch DePriest on behalf of
The Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores
February 25, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mitch DePriest, and I appear today on behalf of the Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores (KACDS), the trade association of chain pharmacies across Kansas which employ more than 32,000 Kansans in over 500 chain pharmacy locations.

We strongly support SB 200, which would allow Kansas pharmacists to address routine health conditions such as influenza, streptococcus, and urinary tract infections. Through the FDA's approval processes Kansas pharmacists can already conduct the tests referenced in Sec. 1. (f); however, it is the "generally self-limiting" therapy that would leverage the advantages of Pharmacists throughout Kansas.

Whenever patients are able to manage conditions addressed in SB 200 they are able to ward off more severe symptoms and avoid more costly services. However, even prior to the pandemic, access to those services could be difficult. Influenza-like illnesses have resulted in roughly 91,000 hospitalizations across America with \$10.4B in healthcare costs. Additionally, we see nearly 40,000 HIV/AIDS diagnoses annually, which Sec. 1. (d) & (e) are aimed to address.

For these healthcare conditions, pharmacies are uniquely positioned and recognized as valued members of the healthcare team in states beyond Kansas. That value includes accessibility as nearly 90% of Kansans live near a community pharmacy as well as the great deal of time Kansans could save. In 2014, the University of Nebraska-College of Pharmacy conducted a time and motion study where patients were able to receive care from a pharmacy within an hour and six hours through a physician.

Finally, as we discuss the role of the pharmacist beyond the traditional role as a dispenser of medication we would draw your attention to a few thoughts.

1. In 2004, only 15% of pharmacies offered vaccinations whereas by 2019 that had risen to 90%.
2. Just under half of a pharmacist's time is spent dispensing medication while the remaining time is spent providing patient care services and other business operations.

We urge the committee to support SB 200.

