



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: March 26, 2021

RE: HB 2280

On behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding HB 2280 concerning updates to the Kansas Pharmacy Practice Act. Overall, the pilot project that has been operational for over three years has demonstrated success during that time.

KHA supports the provisions of this legislation that deals with telepharmacy services. The provisions allowing a pharmacist to conduct review, supervision, verification, and patient consultations virtually are critically important to our state rural critical access hospitals. There is a need to sustain access to these vital services. As telemedicine overall, including the applications of telepharmacy, becomes more commonplace in health care, Kansas will need to ensure clear criteria for safe operations, compliance, and evaluation are critical to the protection of the public and access to pharmacy services particularly in rural or underserved areas.

Kansas hospitals believe the K-TRACS prescription drug monitoring program should be funded through the state general fund or grant funds as it is an essential public health tool that ensures the appropriate use of controlled substances and other drugs of concern. The ability to appropriately monitor prescription drug use and potential drug abuse saves the state funds in other areas, so we believe this should be an area of re-investment in the KTRACS System.

Kansas remains a national leader in creating a statewide prescription monitoring program that was signed into law in 2008. The program was implemented in 2010 after grant funding became available. Long-term, sustainable funding of KTRACS is essential to ensuring the appropriate use of controlled substances. The program has been an integral tool, providing prescribers and dispensers of controlled substances and other drugs of concern with data regarding patients who may be over-utilizing these medications or drug-seeking from multiple providers. With the integration of K-TRACS into electronic health records, a significant increase in the K-TRACS program's utilization has occurred. However, sustained, state general fund or grant funds should be used to support this critically important tool in the fight against drug abuse and to improve patient safety.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments regarding HB 2280.