



To: Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs
From: Rob Tinsley, Currus CEO, rtinsley@currusrx.com, 785-228-1695
Date: March 15, 2022
Re: Neutral Written Only Testimony on SB 560

Chairman Olson and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill 560. I am Rob Tinsley, submitting testimony on behalf of Currus.

Currus is a cooperative that represents independent pharmacies across the state of Kansas. Formally known as Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation (KPSC), Currus has served independent pharmacies in Kansas for over 35 years. With over 200 independent pharmacies in each corner of the state and everywhere in between, independent pharmacies are the local connection to patients.

We appreciate that SB 560 includes a role for pharmacy in the consideration of dispensing of medical marijuana in the state of Kansas. Kansas pharmacists are a valuable resource to their local community and provide consulting and clinical support to their patients as well as other local healthcare professionals. Medical marijuana should be treated like a drug therapy, and as a result, a licenses pharmacist in the state of Kansas should have oversight of any dispensary. This would ensure the opportunity for patients to be counseled on medical marijuana including benefits, side effects, and how it may interact with the patient's other medications or health conditions.

We do have a concern in Sec 37 (b) (1) which reads, "Not charge a fee for such pharmacist's services that exceeds 1% of the gross annual receipts of such retail dispensary". We request that this language be deleted from the bill. Pharmacies operate in a free market where all retailers set their own pricing. We do not support language that restricts or limit what a pharmacy, or any retailer, can charge for their services.

If the Senate decides to move forward with medical marijuana legislation, we believe a conservative approach should be implemented with an even greater role for pharmacists. To date, other proposals, particularly the House's Substitute for SB 158, provides little role for pharmacists. We encourage the committee to review approaches in states like Utah that have provided access to medical marijuana but in a controlled manner by truly treating the product like a drug with an increase pharmacist role.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and our members are happy to discuss further with the committee.