



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Rachele Colombo, Executive Director

Date: March 15, 2023

Subject: HB 2263; Authorizing Pharmacy Technicians to Administer Certain Vaccines

The Kansas Medical Society (KMS) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB 2263, authorizing pharmacy technicians to administer certain vaccines. KMS represents physicians from every specialty across the state and has a well-established record of advocating for legislation promoting access while protecting patients.

Ideally, all vaccinations would be administered by primary care physicians where patients would receive comprehensive evaluation and treatment. However, physicians have long-realized the benefit of partnering with other providers to ensure patients are immunized even if they do not have a medical home. For this reason, local health departments are currently able to administer vaccinations in every county in Kansas. Additionally, the law was amended in 2017 to allow pharmacists to vaccinate children 12 and older. Though some vaccination rates remain low, it cannot be attributed to poor access.

During the pandemic, pharmacists and technicians were authorized under emergency orders to administer COVID vaccinations to ensure the public had ample and timely access to the vaccine. This proved to be beneficial for the population as a whole and aided the effort to see the majority inoculated preventatively.

KMS was approached by representatives of the pharmacy community about this legislation and the professions subsequently met to discuss the best approach to encouraging vaccine access with limitations on administration for vulnerable populations. We do not object to allowing pharmacy technicians to administer the flu vaccine to children six and older and other vaccines to individuals twelve and older, so long as these technicians are 18 years or older, are appropriately trained and supervised by a pharmacist and do not administer required vaccines to school-age children needing to be evaluated by a physician.

We appreciate the pharmacists' efforts to address our concerns prior to bill introduction and would only ask that the bill be amended to restrict pharmacy technicians younger than 18 from administering vaccinations.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these neutral comments on HB 2263.