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The Honorable Senator Vicki Schmidt  
Honorable Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Kansas Senate  
Topeka, Ks

February 9, 2017

RE: Senate Bill No. 377 relating to a pharmacist administering a drug by injection

Madam Chairman and Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

My name is Dean Benton. I am the Clinical Care Manager for Dillon's Pharmacy a division of the Kroger Company that operates 54 pharmacies across the state of Kansas in 25 different communities. Also, Dillon's is a member of the KACDS and we have been working with the organization on this issue over the past year.

I am here in support of Senate Bill No. 377 allowing pharmacists the ability to administer injectable drugs to our patients. The bill would allow for an increased convenience for Kansans to have their injectable medication administered in the same location that they receive their medication.

I am a native Kansan having grown up in the farming community near Nickerson, Ks and understand the impact that a rural setting has on health care for an individual. I am a licensed pharmacist and have practiced pharmacy in the state of Kansas for 23 years providing immunizations since 2001. I am also a National Trainer for the American Pharmacist Association Immunization Delivery program that is used to train pharmacists in the administration of vaccines.

There are multiple medications that require patients to self-administer the injection or enlist the assistance of a spouse or a neighbor to provide the administration of various injectable drugs. Those providing the service, many times have minimal experience in administration techniques. Most of these patients pick up their medication from a pharmacy that has training and experience around the administration of the various products, but are not able to provide the needed assistance of administration for their patients. Pharmacy locations are open additional hours compared to that of current provider's and would allow for more accessibility for the consumer as well. Rural areas of the state where patients currently have difficulty finding a provider for services would now have more opportunities available through this increased access.

This bill will allow assistance to Kansans with a growing market of injectable medications. Physicians would have the ability to utilize a pharmacy to provide vaccinations that they do not stock or choose not to provide by simply writing a prescription to be dispensed and administered by the pharmacy. Pharmacists, who are notably already permitted to administer vaccines to patients in all 50 states, are trained and experienced in drug administration techniques and practices.

We are encouraged by Senate Bill No. 377 that will allow for safer and improved administration options for patients of injectable drugs administered in local communities by pharmacists.

We appreciate your work on behalf of the Dillon's pharmacies and our customers across this great state and ask for passage of this important legislation.

Thank you for considering my views on this issue, I am happy to respond to questions.