



**Testimony re: SB 200
House Health & Human Services
Presented by Mitch DePriest on behalf of
Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores
March 14, 2022**

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mitch DePriest, and I am appearing 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.

Since the pandemic began we have been proud of the ways our pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and operations teams have stepped up responding to changing preferences among consumers, a nationwide testing regime, and the administration of millions of vaccines.

In this changing environment we have discussed how pharmacies can be utilized in addressing other common health conditions just like the Legislature provided for in allowing naloxone to be dispensed directly to a patient subject to a statewide protocol. As presented to you today SB 200 provides a similar approach to influenza, strep throat, and UTIs.

Kansas pharmacies are already able to provide for the testing of these conditions through an FDA approved process that identified the tests as being able to “render the likelihood of erroneous results as negligible” to the extent that they are often available for home use.

However, Kansas pharmacists are not able to provide what are fairly standardized treatments like their counterparts in 17 other states. You might wonder about the experiences in those states. Studies in the last decade demonstrated patients were able to address their conditions before requiring emergency care as 38% visited outside a clinic’s hours and 54% did not have a primary care provider.

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.

Thank you for the time today and I would urge your support of SB 200.

