



February 24, 2021

Kansas Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
RE: Senate Bill 200

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity-Kansas (AFP-KS), I am here to testify in support of SB 200. AFP-KS activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and advocate for building a patient-centered health care system that lowers costs, increase choices, and improves access for millions of people seeking relief. The reforms outlined in the bill to expand access to pharmacists would promote all these important goals.

This legislation would expand the capacity of Kansas' pharmacists to deliver high-quality care. This bill would authorize pharmacists to prescribe medications for conditions that are minor, do not require a new diagnosis, or meets other select requirements.

This would significantly expand access to important medications for all Kansas, especially for families who live in the state's underserved communities.<sup>i</sup> Pharmacists are widely accessible to the vast majority of households. Roughly nine-out-of-ten patients live within five miles of a pharmacy.<sup>ii</sup> Many pharmacies are located in grocery and department stores, making them a convenient destination for working families with busy schedules.

In addition, pharmacies are open during more convenient hours compared to physicians' offices. Pharmacies typically operate during weekends, nights, and holidays.<sup>iii</sup> By contrast, physicians' offices are generally only open nine to six on weekdays. Allowing pharmacists in these convenient locations to safely prescribe medication will allow more individuals to access medications in a timely manner.

This committee can ensure more families receive the high quality and affordable health care they need by empowering pharmacists to prescribe essential medicine. Please vote "Yes" on this in committee to strengthen health care access and lower costs.

We thank you for the opportunity to address this critical issue and we look forward to working with the committee to craft real reforms that expand access to affordable and high-quality health care for all Kansans.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton  
Americans for Prosperity

---

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/primary-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.pharmacist.com/sites/default/files/files/APHA%20Meeting%20Update/PHARMACISTS\\_COVID19-Final-3-20-20.pdf](https://www.pharmacist.com/sites/default/files/files/APHA%20Meeting%20Update/PHARMACISTS_COVID19-Final-3-20-20.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3767711/>