

Testimony concerning HB 2206
House Committee on Health and Human Services
February 15, 2017

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this neutral testimony on HB 2206. The Board is generally supportive of initiatives to provide increased access to healthcare for Kansas citizens. Furthermore, the Board understands and supports prescribing in the telemedicine setting.

The Board questions the inclusion of language allowing physicians to dispense medications in a telemedicine setting. Any reference to physician dispensing is concerning, because it would seem to allow physicians to either remotely dispense medications to patients in a separate physical environment, or allow an unidentified third party to dispense medications at the patient's physical location on behalf of the physician. HB 2206, Section 1, paragraph (e)(2) specifically allows for the dispensing of controlled substances, which include drugs like Adderall, oxycodone, fentanyl, steroids, Xanax, Ambien, and tramadol. As you know, our nation is experiencing an opioid epidemic, and Kansas is not immune. These drugs are high risk and have a higher frequency of diversion than any other medication. Careful consideration of the prevalence and availability of controlled substances is paramount, and appropriate storage, access, security, and dispensing in the health care setting is vital to the safety of Kansas citizens. While prescribing of controlled substances for legitimate medical use may be appropriate, dispensing in the telemedicine setting lacks the proper protections. Furthermore, dispensing of more than a 72-hour supply of controlled substances would necessitate reporting to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, K-TRAS, which is not traditionally something a clinic is setup to accomplish.

The Board does not believe these allowances and impacts were the intent of HB 2206, and suggests an amendment to HB 2206 removing any reference to dispensing.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Blasi, JD, MBA
Executive Secretary