



Testimony for House Bill 2030

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

By Jody Reel, PharmD

Kansas Pharmacists Association, Topeka Kansas

March 15, 2017

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Jody Reel, and I am a Kansas pharmacy owner and Chair of Government Affairs /Board Director for the Kansas Pharmacists Association. The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association in Kansas that represents Kansas pharmacists from all practice settings. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the KPhA in support for House Bill 2030--Pharmacist Administration of Vaccine to Children. This proposed change in statute will allow pharmacists to provide vaccinations to children down to 12 years of age and will increase access to immunizations, particularly immunizations for adolescents--Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR,) Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV,) meningococcal, and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines. Increased access should result in higher immunization rates. Kansas ranks 44th in the nation for overall adolescent immunization rates.

In February 2016, the CDC reported that Kansas ranked last in the nation for HPV vaccination rates in the country. HVP is a virus that currently infects 80% of adults at some point in their lives. It is responsible for warts on the skin, including genital warts, cancers including cervical, vaginal, and throat (oropharyngeal.) HPV is responsible to 27,000 new cancer diagnoses every year in the United States. This vaccine is the only vaccine available to prevent cancer.

Outbreaks of measles, mumps, meningitis, and pertussis have occurred nationwide and in the Midwest. I've personally experienced pertussis outbreaks in Kansas, while having children too young to be immunized. Living in an area with low immunization rates, we lack the protection of herd immunity--having the majority immune from a disease to prevent its spread. Most notable outbreaks in Kansas include:

- Pertussis – 2014-2015 - 7 outbreaks with 331 ill spread across the eastern half of the state (Reno, McPherson, Barton, Harvey, Marion, Pottawatomie, and Montgomery Counties)
- Measles – 2014 – one outbreak with 14 cases
- Mumps – 2006 – 546 cases across a wide age span, with a high level of impact on KU. Happened in May and caused concern over graduation gatherings.

By allowing pharmacists to immunize these adolescents, we would be able to increase access and awareness of immunizations. Nationwide, 26 states allow pharmacists to provide all immunizations including neighboring states: Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, and Missouri. Kansas is one of 17 states that have some restrictions for patients under 18 years of age.

Thank you for your consideration for House Bill 2030. If you have any questions or issues for follow-up, I am available at (785) 285-1257.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody K. Reel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jody K. Reel, PharmD
Chair, Government Affairs
District 2 Board Director
Kansas Pharmacists Association