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Testimony concerning SB 312
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
February 1, 2018

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to SB 312, as written. Specifically, the Board has concerns about the language in Section 2, which would permit dental therapists to dispense and administer certain medications. Consumer safety should be carefully considered before granting authority to dispense or administer any medications to patients. Furthermore, proper supervision, regulation, and oversight are necessary to ensure the protection of the public. The Board does not feel that each dental therapist would have the requisite education, training or experience to dispense and administer medications to patients, or that adequate protections are in place. In Kansas, registered nurses are not even allowed to dispense medications.

Though it does not appear that the bill contemplates prescribing or dispensing of controlled substances, the Board also seeks clarification on whether this is contemplated in the current legislation or changes to the structure of dental healthcare in Kansas. Inclusion of controlled substances prompts consideration of the current opioid epidemic and the involvement of or impact to the Kansas prescription drug monitoring program, K-TRACS.

The Board suggests an amendment to remove any reference to dispensing or administration of medications. The Board further recommends that dental therapists at no time be authorized to dispense or prescribe medications to patients, and be prohibited from dispensing or administering controlled substances.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Blasi, JD, MBA
Executive Secretary