



**Testimony In Opposition To House Bill No. 2244 -
To the House Judiciary Committee
Fred Patton, Chairman**

March 12, 2019

Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you regarding House Bill No. 2244. Currus, Inc. is a for-profit corporation in Kansas that represents independent pharmacies across the state of Kansas. We have had many programs since 1985 that have served consistently to improve the operations of independents and to represent their views on many pharmacy and other health care issues.

We oppose House bill No. 2244 in its current form. This bill, though allowing for the provision of medical cannabis use for specified debilitating medical conditions, does not have any regulatory oversight by the Kansas Board of Pharmacy, nor does it have language regarding dispensing of products to treat such conditions. We see the products used for the medical conditions assumed in this bill as requiring licensing for an entity or individuals dispensing. Any medical cannabis dispensing not having the full regulatory authority of the state board of pharmacy for licensing, criminal background checks, appropriate rules and reporting, and other applicable regulations, is not in line with dispensing oversight in Kansas.

Further, we believe that Kansas pharmacies and pharmacists, duly registered in the state to dispense, with well-designed and comprehensive regulations, should be solely responsible for the dispensing of such products. Pharmacists know patient medication history and often other important aspects of related medical history to enhance patient care. They also are best positioned as dispensers to interact with patients' physicians on all health matters.

Please address any questions to Currus, Inc. CEO Peter Stern at 1-800-279-3022 or pstern@currusrx.com.