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**Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Proponent Testimony re: SB 234
Presented by Julie Hein on behalf of
Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores (KACDS)
March 22, 2019**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I represent the Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores (KACDS), which is the Kansas arm of the NACDS, representing 313 Pharmacy store fronts, and employing 30,000 full and part-time Kansans.

KACDS supports SB 234 – electronic prescribing of controlled substances.

KACDS urges the adoption of laws and policies requiring electronic prescriptions where practical, as use of e-prescribing technologies have numerous benefits for both patients and healthcare providers.

Recognizing the important role of electronic prescribing in helping to curb the opioid crisis, Congress recently enacted federal legislation requiring controlled substances prescriptions covered under Medicare Part D to be electronically transmitted starting in 2021. We encourage lawmakers to build upon this effort and extend the mandate to apply to all prescriptions issued for controlled substances and not just those covered by Medicare.

Benefits for Patients and Providers include:

Safety and Security - Electronic controlled substance prescriptions cannot be altered, cannot be copied, and are electronically trackable.

Reduces Prescription Errors - Studies show that electronic prescriptions are less prone to errors.

Reduces Unfilled Prescriptions - patients are more likely to fill prescriptions that are sent electronically to their pharmacy and begin the medication treatment sooner.

Improved Medication Adherence - Electronic prescribing allows prescribers to track whether the prescription was filled and how often it is refilled.

Reduces Administrative Burden - Electronic prescribing reduces the administrative burden on physicians and clinical office staff responding to prescription refill authorization.

Thank you for discussing this issue and we encourage you to pass SB 234.