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**Testimony re: Organization of Public Health Boards
Special Committee on Organization of Public Health Boards
Presented by Ronald R. Hein
on behalf of
Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores
December 14, 2016**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and I am legislative counsel for the Kansas Association of Chain Drug Stores which is the Kansas affiliate of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. NACDS represents 11 companies operating over 280 stores, employing over 27,000 full and part-time employees, and paying over \$331 million in state taxes.

KACDS opposes the creation of a super-board for healthcare licensees in the state, and urges the committee not to recommend legislation either creating the super-board or combining the Board of Nursing and the Board of Healing Arts as an initial step in accomplishing the creation of a super-board.

KACDS opposes introduction of legislation in this area for several reasons. KACDS is not just taking this position to protect the status quo. No State General Fund (SGF) dollars are utilized by the Board of Pharmacy or any of the other health boards regulating health licensees. There are no general taxpayer dollars involved in this issue. Fees to support the function of these health boards are paid by the licensees themselves, and fees are only charged for specific activities of the boards performed in the regulatory function for such licensees. These boards are all self-supporting.

Regulated licensees of fee boards are quite vigilant about the budgets of such boards, and thus the regulated licensees that pay such fees of the licensing boards insure that such fees stay at reasonable levels. There is no need for a super-board to create efficiency of such boards.

Creating a super-board for health fee boards will NOT increase efficiency of the regulatory process. A super-board would necessitate hiring employees who have no expertise in the areas of the regulated licensees they are regulating. Each fee agency has different legislative provisions, and significant rules and regulations which must be followed by the regulatory agency. To expect an employee of a super-board to know all of the subtleties of the laws and regulations regarding all health licensees is expecting too much of these employees. The result will be less efficient, less effective, and less competent functionality for ALL fee boards. There will not be greater efficiency, but less.

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We urge the committee to reject introduction of any legislation to create a health super-board or to combine any two boards as a first step to accomplishing such a concept.

Thank you for permitting me to submit this written testimony.