

KANSAS ADVOCACY

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DISCLOSURES

Faculty

Nathaniel Blank, faculty for this activity, has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.

Planners

None of the planners for this activity have any relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

OBJECTIVES: PHARMACISTS AND TECHNICIANS

- Identify key principles and components of effective advocacy in pharmacy practice.
- Describe the role of pharmacy professionals in healthcare advocacy and policy.
- Recognize opportunities for pharmacy professionals to engage in legislative, regulatory, and public policy advocacy.
- List effective strategies for communicating pharmacy-related issues to legislators, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Simple Definition:

"Advocacy is the act of educating and influencing decision-makers to improve policies, laws, and outcomes for the people and communities we serve."

Pharmacists, what does advocacy mean to you?

PRINCIPLES OF ADVOCACY

"If you aren't at the table, you're on the menu."

"Advocacy is telling your story before someone else tells it for you."

"Advocacy is more than lobbying. It's educating, building relationships, and ensuring that policymakers understand how their decisions affect patients, providers, and communities. Every meaningful change in healthcare began because someone took the time to speak up."

BEST PRACTICES

- Start the relationship building process before you have an issue. Their first introduction to you should NOT be when you have a problem for them to solve
- Know them, their backgrounds, and their politics
- Offer yourself as a supportive subject matter expert
- Maintain contact



MEMBERS OF US CONGRESS THEY'RE JUST LIKE YOU!



Senator
Jerry Moran



Senator
Roger
Marshall



Congressman
Ron Estes



Congresswoman
Sharice Davids

Only Democratic
member



Congressman
Tracey Mann



Congressman
Derek
Schmidt

Realtor Lawyers Engineer
Physician MMA Fighter

STATEWIDE OFFICIALS



Governor
Laura Kelly



Insurance
Commissioner
Vicki Schmidt



Secretary of
State Scott
Schwab



Attorney General
Kris Kobach



State
Treasurer
Steven
Johnson

Only
Democratic
member

Financial Planner Sales Executive Attorney
Pharmacist Parks and Rec Leader

STATEHOUSE LEADERSHIP



Senate President
Ty Masterson
Andover



Senate Minority Leader
Dinah Sykes
Lenexa



House Speaker
Dan Hawkins
Wichita



House Speaker
Pro Tem Blake Carpenter
Derby



Senate Majority Leader
Chase Blasi
Wichita



House Minority Leader
Brandon Woodard
Lenexa



House Majority Leader
Chris Croft
Overland Park

Everyday Community Relations Stay-at-home-mom/Private Chef Construction Trades

Insurance Agent Non-Profit Fundraising Workforce Development Exec Retired Army Leader

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Most likely lack experience and understanding of issues specific to you
- Most do not have staff to study issues and brief them
- They have a desire to do the right thing
- They want to hear from you
- They appreciate personal interaction, appreciation, and support
- Most issues are not political



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COMMUNICATING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Ways: in-person, email, telephone, text, letter, social media, mail
- Do: Get to the point, respectfully
- Don't: Spam them. Slam them.
- Set realistic expectations
- Remember: Your communications are NOT private

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ACTIVE LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Break down into pairs; one person being a pharmacist, the other a legislator. Role play a conversation on a key KPhA issue, such as the Medicaid Dispensing Fee. ~15-20 minutes

1. Practice respectfully approaching and interacting with a legislator.
2. Attempt to understand where skeptical legislators may be coming from.
3. Switch places and/or partners so everyone can practice their pitch!

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Gubernatorial Primaries

- State Senate President Ty Masterson secured the Republican nomination
- State Senator Cindy Holscher won an upset victory for the Democratic nomination



Senatorial Primary

- Methodist megachurch pastor Adam Hamilton won the Democratic primary and will face off against incumbent U.S. Senator Roger Marshall

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INCOMING LEADERSHIP

Legislative leadership elections held on December 7th

- Leadership will remain the same until new legislators are sworn in at the start of session in January
- Results of General Election will affect who is Senate President and Senate Minority Leader
- All House leadership positions are up for contention
 - Majority Leader Croft is widely expected to become the next Speaker of the House

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LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The makeup of several key committees will be different in the 2027 session

- House Health and Human Services will have a new chairman, with longtime legislator Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado) retiring
 - Also on the committee, Reps. Doug Blex, Ron Ellis, and Carl Turner are retiring
- House Insurance will lose Reps. Pat Proctor (Running for Sec. of State), Paul Waggoner (Retiring), and Ken Collins (Defeated in primary election)
- Senate Public Health and Welfare may lose Ranking Minority Member Sen. Cindy Holscher, the Democratic nominee for Governor.

ALL COMMITTEES SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY NEW LEADERSHIP

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KANSAS BOARD OF PHARMACY

- Responsible for regulating Pharmacist and Pharmacy Facility licensure
- Hold public meetings quarterly
 - <https://www.pharmacy.ks.gov/about-us/board-meetings>
- All seven board members appointed by the governor
 - Six licensed pharmacists and one member representing the general public

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE



- Responsible for investigating insurance-related complaints
- Has online form to report violations of SB20 by PBMs
- <https://www.insurance.kansas.gov/companies/kansas-consumer-prescription-protection-and-accountability-act>
- Commissioner of Insurance is up for election in 2026
- GET INVOLVED!

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HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- Where to find legislator's contact info:
 - <http://www.kslegislature.org>
 - <https://pluralpolicy.com/find-your-legislator>
- Where to register to vote:
 - <https://www.kdor.ks.gov/apps/voterreg>

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THANK YOU!



Questions?
You can reach me at

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Collect Your CE

The Lecture Panda
code for this session is:

{code here}

*All course credits from this
conference must be submitted by
Oct. 28th, 2026*

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