

Kansas Senator and MD calls for Early Treatment Options for Covid-19 Patients now: Delayed Treatment Worsens Outcomes

Kansas Senator Mark Steffen, a physician and board-certified anesthesiologist, has sent out 250 letters to physicians and healthcare providers in hospitals, clinics, and governmental agencies across the state. Senator Steffen's letter highlights the urgency of his central message, which should be immediately evident to all physicians: "Delayed treatment worsens outcomes."

Dr. Steffen's letter draws attention to the quickly evolving standard of care for COVID-19, while reminding healthcare providers that they have "a legal duty to ensure facilitation of treatment as expeditiously as possible." The letter, reminding Kansas physicians and health care staff of their medical responsibilities, has been called unprecedented. It is, indeed, unusual for legislators to reach out directly to healthcare providers regarding accepted treatment practices.

Dr. Steffen's letter, which appears on official senatorial letterhead, draws attention to the Senate's House Bill 2280. It also reminds physicians and health care workers that, as the standard of care in the treatment of COVID-19 evolves, so too must their responsibilities as healthcare providers.

Bill 2280 ensures that physicians may prescribe Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine as well as other FDA-approved medications for the off-label treatment of Covid-19. It further ensures that schools and child-care facilities recognize child vaccine exemptions. On the official Kansas Legislature webpage, Bill 2280 is described as "[a]uthorizing the prescribing and dispensing of medications for off-label use to prevent and treat COVID-19 infections and requiring child-care facilities and schools to grant religious exemptions from vaccination requirements without inquiring into the sincerity of such religious beliefs."^{1 2 3}

Making a clear appeal to those physicians and health care professionals treating COVID-19 patients, Senator Steffen's letter pushes the considerations of Kansas law-making out of the legislature and into public view. "Passive early treatment of Covid infections is no longer acceptable or the standard of care", Steffen writes. "The standard of care is early treatment with FDA-approved medications regardless of their labelled uses. Delays in the institution of these treatments are no longer acceptable... Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine, and Fluvoxamine remain readily available and are historically well tolerated. The hundreds of studies utilizing these medications as part of a multidrug regimen used early and at correct dosages have a clear signal of significant efficacy".⁴ Senator Steffen's letter presses physicians and health care staff to consider what constitutes a reasonable standard of care with respect to the treatment of COVID-19 in light of current scientific evidence. The letter also insistently reminds physicians and health care staff that a reasonable standard of care must translate directly into their own duty of care towards patients.

¹ http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/measures/hb2280/

² Regarding exemptions based upon religious beliefs, Bill 2280 contains the following clarification: "religious beliefs" includes, but is not limited to, theistic and non-theistic moral and ethical beliefs as to what is right and wrong that are sincerely held with the strength of traditional religious views."

³ Having passed in the Senate, Bill 2280 must still be approved by the House which is adjourned until April 25th.

⁴ https://twitter.com/p_mcculloughmd/status/1510251132563734535?s=10&t=QezqHmP4vnZJZQ0_jHqI4w&fbclid=IwAR08Cq2bMIITAfEHQaq-BwePUX1ByHK0kZMkwo-0qzKDePSaPo7x9SLFgj8

STATE OF KANSAS

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-6981
mark.steffen@senate.ks.gov



TOPEKA
SENATE CHAMBER

MARK STEFFEN, M.D.
SENATOR 34TH DISTRICT
3500 N. MAYFIELD RD.
HUTCHINSON, KS 67502

March 31st, 2022

Dear Healthcare Provider,

As we have struggled mightily over the last two years responding to the Covid virus, one issue of particular importance has now become indelibly clear. Passive early treatment of Covid infections is no longer acceptable or the standard of care. The standard of care is early treatment with FDA-approved medications regardless of their labelled uses. Delays in institution of these treatments are no longer acceptable. The Healthcare Provider has a legal duty to ensure facilitation of treatment as expeditiously as possible. Delayed treatment worsens outcomes.

All Providers caring for those infected with Covid must have mastery of protocols heretofore considered beyond the FDA or CDC. The lack of availability of monoclonal antibodies remains problematic. Paxlovid and molnupiravir have availability and drug interaction issues as well. Ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and fluvoxamine remain readily available and are historically well tolerated. The hundreds of studies utilizing these medications as part of a multidrug regimen used early and at correct dosages have a clear signal of significant efficacy that can no longer be dismissed.

With the recent passage of Senate substitute for HB 2280 by the Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and subsequently the Senate as a whole, there is no reason to think that prescribing problems will arise from pharmacist or Board of Healing Arts interference. In consultation with the legal community, indications are that "failure to treat" will now be considered "wanton disregard." As such, any perceived statutory immunity will be rendered invalid.

Providing care to the ill is difficult yet rewarding when done correctly and with a patient-first approach. I wish you the very best as our treatment of Covid becomes more sophisticated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark B. Steffen M.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Mark B. Steffen, M.D.

Educational Resources-

- 1) Association of American Physicians and Surgeons- A Guide to Home-Based Covid Treatment PDF e-booklet
- 2) FLCCC Alliance- <https://covid19criticalcare.com/covid-19-protocols/>
- 3) Dr. Peter McCullough Early Treatment Protocol 2022

An Open “Letter of Concern” regarding the Kansas Board of Healing Arts (KBHA)

Dear Healthcare Providers,

As you may be aware, K.S.A. 65-2838a provides a means by which the KBHA (the board) may communicate with a licensee via a “letter of concern”. In that same vein, I, as a State Senator and licensee, feel it is critical that I communicate the multiple concerns regarding the behavior and actions of the Kansas Board of Healing Arts over the past two years:

- 1) The board launched investigations against dozens of hard-working Kansas physicians as they pursued the development of a treatment plan for Covid.
- 2) The board blindly followed political stances promoted by the CDC that were not backed by scientific data (not evidence-based).
- 3) The board was intimidated by a July 2021 Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) statement intended to snuff out early treatment of Covid to further the financial windfall of the big pharmacy corporations.
- 4) The board fell in line with the threat and intensified their bullying of earnest providers.
- 5) The board via their interference with the physicians attempting to provide these widely known and successful treatment options were undeniably guilty of causing suffering and death.

The board failed the very people they are tasked with protecting, the fine citizens of Kansas. Their ridiculous excuse was that treatment had to be “evidence based”. A term without a clear definition. A term potentially applicable to the treatment of hypertension or diabetes. “Evidence based” has no place in a mass casualty event from a contagion with no prior history. That scenario demands ingenuity and creativity. Qualities that mainstream academic medicine and the board do not possess.

The board labelled my March 31st, 2022 letter to Kansas healthcare providers as “unprecedented” creating a mainstream media storm. What was unprecedented was the board’s failure to protect Kansans.

On April 14th, 2022, I received a letter from the board acknowledging the end of their investigation against me without any finding of violation of the Healing Arts Act. I interpret their letter to be an admission of guilt.

Sincerely,

Senator Mark B. Steffen, M.D.