



www.mirrorinc.org

To Whom It May Concern:

As a mental health and substance use treatment professional in Kansas, I am strongly advocating for the Kansas House Bill 2277 be enacted into law. Lethal doses of fentanyl have been identified in a wide array of illicit and counterfeit drugs, and as a result, many lives have been taken long before their respective potentials were reached. Many of these lives, as well as the lives of those tasked with supporting these individuals, could have been saved with more readily available access to testing supplies to safeguard against this deadly drug. Fentanyl test strips (FTS) could prevent opioid overdoses by better informing individuals who use drugs whether it contains fentanyl. As it stands, FTS are considered drug paraphernalia under state law. As a treatment professional, I see the immediate good this would do to support our clients' efforts to build a path towards recovery. FTS are a harm reduction method that can keep a person alive long enough to reach their full potential in recovery. In addition, many substance use and healthcare providers lives are put at risk when combating this deadly chemical, and more widespread use of these tools would aid in improving the efficacy of the work we do in aiding our clients to recover and become contributing members of society.

Thankfully, Kansas House Bill 2277 was recently introduced, which excludes FTS from drug paraphernalia classification. Additionally, Federal guidelines have changed, and organizations are allowed to use federal funding to purchase and distribute FTS. However, we CANNOT do this until statues change in Kansas. Therefore, along with my colleagues and friends in recovery, I am requesting that the Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee enact Kansas House Bill 2277 into law.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mac Crawford", written in a cursive style.

Mac Crawford, LSCSW