

January 7, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our bereaved family. My name is Amber Saale. Our family has lost four members to illicit fentanyl in the last two years. Three of those family members passed in the last year.

It is our belief that had there been a Good Samaritan Overdose law in Kansas that our son-in-law David and my husband's sister Monica would still be alive. In both of these instances our loved ones were not alone. They were surrounded by what they assumed to be friends. In both situations they took a pill **that** they thought to be something else, and the people **who** were around them were afraid to call the police for fear of being arrested. In both of these circumstances it was unfortunately too late by the time someone was brave enough to call for help. David was 16. He has a son that is now 2 years old and unfortunately will never remember his father other than the stories we tell him. David had his entire life ahead of him and could have been saved had the people around him had known that the call was going to be treated as a medical emergency and not a crime scene.

Monica was 36. She left behind 3 children that are going to forever have to miss the contagious laugh and loving kind heart that their mother had. Her so-called friends panicked and tried to "clean" the house before calling for help so they didn't get arrested, and then finally someone called the police and left.

On August 17<sup>th</sup> my husband and I got a call that our daughter Kaylee was in the hospital, and was being placed on a ventilator. My husband and I shuffled things around, and scattered to find a babysitter for our four children that live at home still. We rushed to KU **Medical Center** to find that our worst fears looked as though they were becoming a reality. Kaylee stayed on the vent until she ultimately passed away on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Our worst fear had come true. We lost our child.

Since Kaylee's passing my husband Max and I have gone full force against illicit fentanyl. We want to spare anyone the pain of losing a child, sibling, or loved one.

The truth of the matter is that there has always been addiction in some form, and sadly there always will be. People will try things they may never have tried, or maybe even be in full blown addiction. Those lives still matter! Those people have families, and friends praying for their recovery. It is my belief that if the Good Samaritan Overdose law is passed, those people in active addiction may have a chance to one day find recovery. Up to 96% of people who use drugs will witness an overdose in their lifetime. Most of those people believe they will go to jail if they have personal drugs on them or paraphernalia. Surveys also show that after the good Samaritan law was passed in Washington almost unanimously those people who use drugs are more likely to call the police for help in an overdose situation knowing they will not go to jail. Kansas being only 1 of 2 states that do not have this law, gives us the opportunity to see what has worked and what hasn't worked for the other states.

This law could be the difference between life and death for someone. With illicit fentanyl usage on the rise now is most defiantly the time to take action and save lives!

Thank you for listening to me and thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A broken-hearted mother

Amber Saale