



Proponent Testimony for HB 2487-Written  
Kimberly Martin, Kansas School Nurses Organization  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
March 14, 2024

Chair Warren and Members of the Committee:

Kansas School Nurses Organization supports HB 2487 because we believe it will save the lives of Kansas students and school staff who may be suffering an overdose or poisoning from opiates. This bill gives a level of immunity from prosecution when bystanders act in good faith and administer Narcan or call 911 when they witness an opiate reaction.

The fentanyl crisis puts middle and high school students especially at risk of accidental overdose or poisoning from opiates laced with fentanyl. There is easy access to counterfeit drugs that look like standard narcotics that are prescribed for pain. The standard narcotics when taken in prescription doses do not cause death, but even a small dose of a counterfeit pill laced with fentanyl can kill.

Teenagers often take unwise risks and decide to experiment with prescription opiates. Many Kansas youth have lost their lives because there is easy access to a cheap counterfeit pill that they can order through social media. Their friends are often afraid to call 911 when it becomes a medical emergency because they fear they will be arrested for also being under the influence or an accessory to a crime. **This bill would make bystanders more likely to call 911 because that risk of being arrested is lifted.**

Currently, KS is one of only two states without a form of a "Good Samaritan Law" for opioid overdoses. In a review of 17 studies, the United States Government Accountability Office found a pattern of lower rates of opioid related deaths in states who have enacted these types of laws.<sup>1</sup>

School nurses advocate for the physical and mental health of students. We need to be sure that we have all the tools available that can help teenagers survive their risky decisions, so that they can have the opportunity to get support and treatment for addiction if needed. They shouldn't have to lose their life due to bystanders being afraid to call for help. HB 2487 provides an additional tool as we all continue to fight this opioid crisis.

We urge this Committee to support and pass out HB 2487. If you have questions, please reach me at [kimberlysmartin@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlysmartin@gmail.com).

Kimberly Martin, RN, MEd, BSN  
Kansas School Nurses Organization Legislative Chair  
On behalf of the Kansas School Nurses Organization Board

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<sup>1</sup> GAO, March 2021, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-248-highlights.pdf>