

January 21, 2024

From: Libby Davis, RN MSN

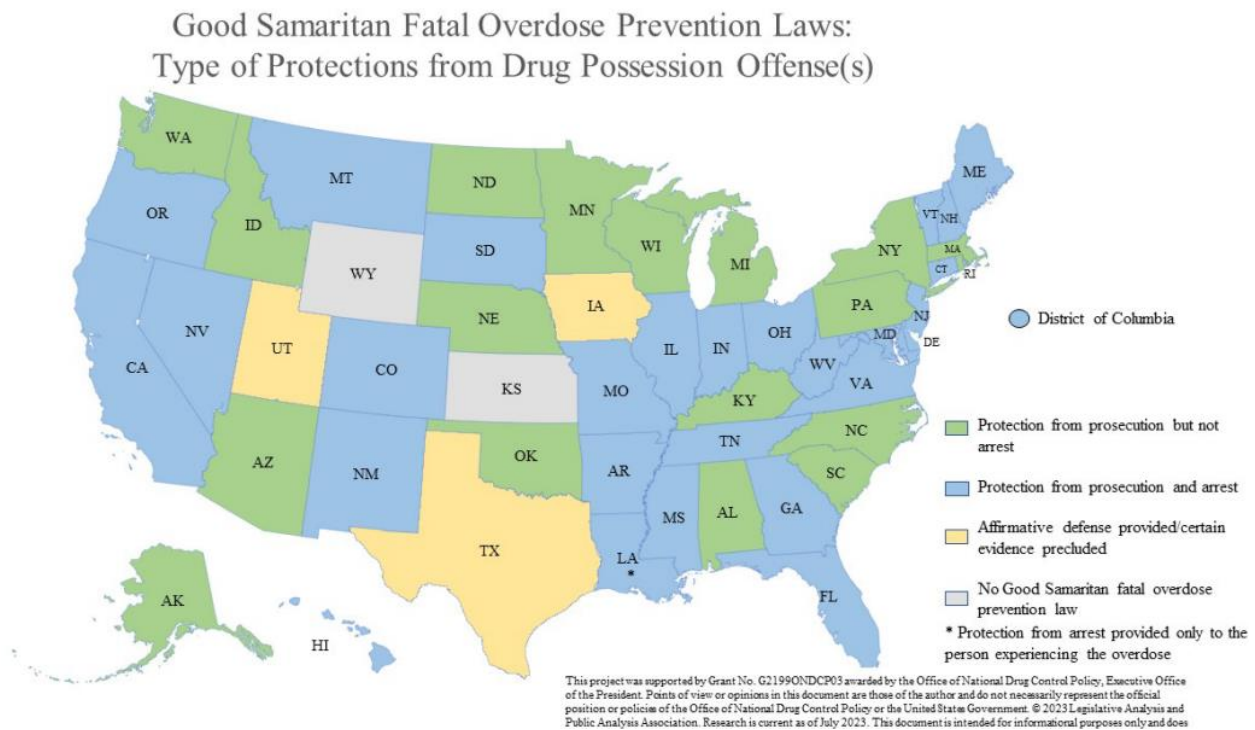
Re: Providing immunity from prosecution for certain drug crimes when persons seek or provide medical assistance related to the use of a controlled substance HB 2487

Dear Members of the Kansas Legislature,

I write to you today as the mother of a 16-year-old son who was poisoned by a fake pill containing illicit fentanyl on August 29, 2021. Four “friends” were present while this happened. He was just a curious teenager who did not get the opportunity to learn from his mistake because no one was willing to help. I have come to understand that illicit fentanyl is a poison that is coming into the United States in unprecedented amounts. It’s addition to the drug supply is taking more American lives than ever before. Life preservation should be your number one concern and this bill has the ability to do just that.

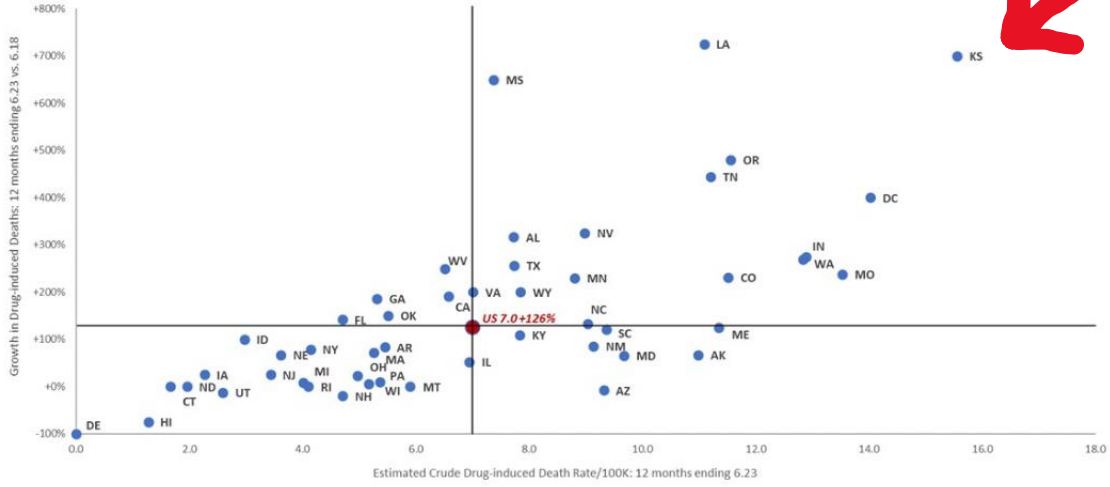
As a legislator, one of your main purposes is to positively impact the health and safety of all Kansans. You are responsible to ensure that health in the state is at a good standard at all times. Preserving life needs to be a top priority as it relates to health in our state.

I believe these two illustrations will best demonstrate the importance of passing this bill. There is, most definitely, a correlation between the two.



U.S. Teen Drug-induced Death Rate & Growth

Age 15-19, est. 12m ending 6.23, 5 yr growth



Derived from: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Mortality & Provisional Mortality 2022-2023 on CDC WONDER Online Database. Final data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files 1999-2020 & from provisional data for years 2022-2023 as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html> & <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html> in Jan, 2024. Reported data, not predicted and provisional data subject to change. "Drug-induced deaths" are from NCHS definition of selected causes of death groups for analysis of all ages mortality data: "Drug poisoning (overdose)" deaths are identified using underlying cause-of-death codes from the Tenth Revision of ICD (ICD-10): X40-X44 (unintentional), X85 (homicide), and Y10-Y14 (undetermined); excludes X60-X64 (suicide). Death rates based on death counts for 12 months ending 6.2023, manually calculated crude per 100K, unreliable where death counts <20. Growth is calculated death counts from 12 months ending 6.2023 vs. 12 months ending 6.2018. South Dakota and Vermont not shown due to zero teen deaths in comparative period.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Libby Davis, RN, MSN