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Testimony of Jennifer Ebert, Jayson Ebert's Mom

House Bill No.2487

January 25,2024

Today is Jayson's birthday. He would be 24 years old.

My name is Jennifer Ebert. I work for Riley County and with Pottawatomie County, Kansas. However, I am here today in my personal capacity and in no way represent Riley County or Pottawatomie County. My testimony today is my own opinion and does not reflect the opinion of my employer or anyone else employed by Riley County or Pottawatomie County.

I strongly urge you to support House Bill No. 2487, including drug overdoses and poisonings in the Kansas Good Samaritan Law.

Awareness and Education is key to fighting the opioid drug crisis. The chance of surviving an overdose often depends on the speed in which the victim receives medical care. Most overdoses occur in the presence of others, but the fear of arrest and prosecution prevents bystanders from calling 911. Calling 911 should never be a crime! When speaking to youth, friends, family members, or community members one question asked is "Does Kansas have a Good Samaritan Law?" That is a hard question to answer. Law Enforcement in my community have been clear, they do not want to make an arrest they want to save a life. Timely response is critical because it is truly a matter of life and death.

House bill No.2487 will clarify and encourage bystanders to render aid to a person needing medical assistance related to the use of a controlled substance, without fear of prosecution for certain drug crimes.

Thank you for your consideration today.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Ebert*