

STATE OF KANSAS

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE**  
**SB133**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2014**

Chairman King, Vice-Chair Smith, and Ranking Member Haley, Judiciary Committee members:

It is an honor that I appear today to support SB133, also named the Lifeline 911 Bill or the Student Good Samaritan Bill. I have been a citizen of the college town, Manhattan, for over 50 years, and spent my own formative college years there. It is from firsthand experience that I recognize the detrimental effects of underage drinking. This bill seeks to reconcile the worst of the dangers with saving lives, giving an opportunity for the "Good Samaritans" to step up and be confident in their actions in helping a peer in danger.

That experience allows me to say that this bill is an important addition to the legislation regulating underage drinking. I have had numerous one on one conversations with leaders and students at Kansas State University, in particular Student Body President Reagan Kays about this issue. I do not believe that poor choices made at a young age should cost a young person his or her life. In university culture, it is a challenge to address underage drinking as a phenomenon, but that should not prevent us from granting access to medical care and education surrounding the dangers of alcohol poisoning.

I found out that the Indiana and Michigan legislature have accomplished an amendment concerning medical immunity for those in danger from alcohol consumption, so I decided to work on a similar proposition with President Kays this fall. His research highlighted a couple of things that really stood out to both of us:

1. Currently there are over 200 colleges and universities that provide a type of guaranteed Medical Amnesty protection to their students on campus. Typically, intoxicated students are given immunity from the school's judicial system if they call 911 or make contact with officials in cases of medical emergency. However, this is not enough to serve all young people that go to college, because a vast majority live off campus.

2. 21 States in America have a Lifeline 911 Law of some sort. Those states include: CA, CO, DE, IN, KY, MI, MN, NC, ND, NJ, NY, OK, PA, UT, TX, VT, WA. Washington, D.C

These statistics point toward a great opportunity to expand safety mechanisms that are proven to save lives.

President Kays and other Regents' Student Government Students have done great ground work with various stakeholders on this issue. In working with passionate individuals and other stakeholders on this bill, I have found that the desire to "give young people confidence" in contacting medical aid or law enforcement officials is pertinent to the protection of our young population. It is noble to educate our citizens, but we must ensure their safety in the process.

You will hear from KSU Student Body President, Reagan Kays, about his networking and vetting of this bill with various stakeholder groups. On the House side, Representative Tom Phillips has shared this bill with many key groups and as a result we have made some changes in the bill, especially those changes suggested by law enforcement. We have also shared this with the ABC and have an amendment being prepared by the Reviser to address their concern about the number of students who might be granted immunity when making a lifesaving call. I hope to leave this amendment to the wisdom of the Committee when you work this bill, but want you to know that the students agree with the ABC suggestions.

This bill has been inspired by the work of several other states as well as many university campuses, but the need goes far beyond the college campus. If this bill is capable of saving even one life, it is worth the effort, though I believe it will be applicable to many more. I think it is important to note that "Alcohol related, unintentional injuries, are a leading cause of death for young people in the United States" and that is compelling enough to implement a policy of reprieve for those seeking medical help. This law can and will save lives, and I look forward to seeing those benefits for the young people of our state.