

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Will Carpenter at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in room 112-N.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Carly Choi, Office of Revisor of Statutes
David Long, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Elizabeth Cohn, Legislative Research Department
Leighann Thone, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Tess Bettler, Senior Manager, Advocacy and State Government Policy, Compass Pathways
Ed Klumpp, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriff's Association, Kansas Peace Officers' Association
Jennifer Ebert, Private Citizen
Amber Saale, Private Citizen
Dr. Julia Slater, Medical Director, Burnett Burn Center, University of Kansas Health Systems

Others in attendance:

No list available

Hearing on: HB2170 — Designating the first full week of February as Kansas burn awareness week.

Carly Choi, Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of **HB2170**.

Dr. Julia Slater, Medical Director, Burnett Burn Center, University of Kansas Health Systems, provided testimony in support of **HB2170 (Attachment 1)**. Burns are some of the most devastating of medical emergencies. Over 400,000 people seek medical care each year. Over 3,000 will die. Burns are the 4th leading cause of death in Kansas. Due to advancements in burn care, nationally there is a greater than 96% survival rate for burn patients. The bill will establish the first full week in February as Kansas Burn Awareness Week. This would align with the American Burn Association's Burn Awareness Week. This would honor those who have lost lives due to burns or suffered severe burn injuries, raise awareness, and educate the public of preventative measures to avoid accidental burn injuries and fatalities.

Dr. Slater responded to questions from the committee.

The hearing was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Health and Human Services at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in room 112-N.

Hearing on: HB2218 — Amending the definition of "psilocybin" in the uniform controlled substances act to exclude the pharmaceutical composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin and adding crystalline polymorph psilocybin to schedule IV of the uniform controlled substance act.

Carly Choi, Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of **HB2218**.

Tess Bettler, Senior Manager, Advocacy and State Government Policy, Compass Pathways, provided testimony in support of **HB2218** ([Attachment 2](#)). The bill would move a pharmaceutical composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin once approved by the Food and Drug Administration from Schedule I to Schedule IV in the Kansas Controlled Substance Act. Psilocybin is currently a Schedule I drug both federally and in Kansas. Currently pharmaceutical grade formulations of synthesized psilocybin are being studied for treatment of serious and difficult to treat mental health conditions. In the event that a composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin is approved by the FDA, the DEA will be expected to make a rescheduling decision soon after approval. Kansas law does not automatically follow DEA rescheduling decisions. **HB2218** would allow for expedited access to new treatments by moving crystalline polymorph psilocybin to Schedule IV.

Ms. Bettler responded to questions from the committee.

Written only testimony in opposition was provided by the following:

James Davis, Private Citizen ([Attachment 3](#))

Written only neutral testimony was provided by the following:

Alexandra Blasi, Executive director, Kansas Board of Pharmacy ([Attachment 4](#))

Hearing on: HB2159 — Creating the emergency opioid antagonists assistance grant fund to provide emergency opioid antagonists to law enforcement agencies and removing law enforcement from the state board of pharmacy's statewide opioid antagonist protocol.

Carly Choi, Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of **HB2159**.

Ed Klumpp, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriff's Association, Kansas Peace Officers' Association, provided testimony in support of **HB2159** ([Attachment 5](#)). The bill would make Narcan available to more law enforcement agencies to carry with them. Any financial assistance to purchase Narcan, especially for smaller agencies is appreciated. The bill also asks that requirements of 65-16,127 be removed. Since Narcan is now available over the counter, these policies are no longer necessary. The associations are requesting to retain the liability protections that exist.

Mr. Klumpp responded to questions from the committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Health and Human Services at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in room 112-N.

Jennifer Ebert, Private Citizen, provided testimony in support of **HB2159** ([Attachment 6](#)). Ms. Ebert provided a personal story related to her son's death. We are facing a fentanyl crisis that does not discriminate. Passing this bill will save lives.

Amber Saale, Private Citizen, provided testimony in support of **HB2159** ([Attachment 7](#)). Ms. Saale provided a personal story related to her daughter's death. The bill will assist in ensuring that the safety of our children is prioritized. It is important that every officer carry Naloxone because they often are the first to arrive for an emergency scene. Having Naloxone on hand allows officers to provide immediate help and potentially prevent deaths. This bill is not just about changing laws, it is about saving lives.

Ms. Saale responded to questions from the committee.

Written only testimony in support was provided by the following:

Ashley Richey, Private Citizen ([Attachment 8](#))

Written only neutral testimony was provided by the following:

Alexandra Blasi, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Pharmacy ([Attachment 9](#))

The hearing on **HB2159** was closed.

Final action on:

Without objection the committee will work **HB2039**.

*Representative Buehler motioned and Representative Ellis seconded to pass out **HB2039** favorably. Motion carried.*

Final action on:

Without objection the committee will work **HB2170**.

*Representative Wikle motioned and Representative Bergquist seconded to pass out **HB2170** favorably. Motion carried.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 PM.