

Testimony before the
Senate Judiciary Committee

On

SB 133- Lifeline 911

By

Morgan Said, Student Body President

University of Kansas

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you all for the opportunity to discuss this important piece of legislation, and why Kansas students feel so adamantly about its favorable passage. My name is Morgan Said and I'm the Student Body President at the University of Kansas, where we created a campus-wide amnesty policy similar to the one sitting before you all today back in 2009.

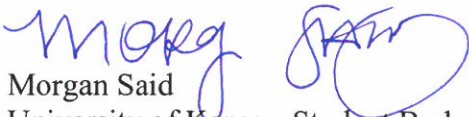
As stated in the University of Kansas Amnesty policy, "This program is designed to promote the health and safety of our community. Any student who abuses this policy can be subject to disciplinary action for impeding the orderly process of the University."

I am happy to report – with the utmost confidence – that the enactment of this policy has not shown an increase in underage drinking on or around our campus; rather, it has proven that our students, when reassured by this amnesty policy, feel comfortable enough to pick up the phone, dial 9-1-1, and take proactive measures to ensure that their peers remain healthy and safe. Our students feel a sense of responsibility for their friends' well-being, and it is important that we encourage them to make the right decision in the tough moments.

Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have enacted Medical Amnesty laws, and two more states are deliberating policies of their own. I have seen first-hand as a University of Kansas student and as a Kansas citizen that this policy has worked in Kansas, and will continue to work in Kansas, given the opportunity to expand its purview.

The Regents Student Body Presidents and our Student Governments here with us today acknowledge our responsibility to serve and protect our fellow peers to the best of our ability. We stand united in our support for this policy, and we hope that you will help us ensure the safety of our student bodies by supporting this legislation in its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration; I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.


Morgan Said
University of Kansas, Student Body President