

To: Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Health

From: MARCER, Tom Collins, Chairman

RE: Support for HB 2217

Date: February 2, 2017

Mid- America Regional Council (MARC) is the bi-state council of local governments serving nine area counties in the KS/MO area of Kansas City. MARC has a sub-committee regarding emergency medical services, (MARCER) consisting of over 35 area EMS agencies and 20 hospitals which collaborate through MARCER for various issues such as communications, disaster planning, hospital diversion, TCD, group purchasing and numerous policy initiatives.

MARCER supports the passage of HB 2217.

The provision to allow a greater segment of our community to use Naloxone to assist a patient suffering from an Opioid Overdose is a critical change in state law. In many areas of the nation the opioid epidemic is claiming thousands of lives a year. Almost every state has adjusted the necessary state laws in order to allow police officers, school nurses and as proposed in Kansas, bystanders to use Naloxone to treat those having an overdose.

HB 2217 was prepared by a coalition including the KS Pharmacists Association, KS Board of Pharmacy, KS Medical Society, KS Board of Healing Arts, KS Police Chiefs Assoc, KS Sheriffs Assoc, KS Peace Officers Assoc, KBI, KS Emergency Medical Services Assoc, MARCER, KS Poison Control at KU, numerous KS EMS physicians and several law enforcement agencies. The effort was to develop a widely supported bill that built on the success in many other states.

HB 2217, we believe is sound public policy and will serve to save the lives of many Kansan's and we urge you to support the legislation.