



Mission: "The pursuit of peace and well-being in Wichita and beyond through partnerships, by connecting individuals, faith communities and community organizations."

1. *Hunger/health (Samaritan Community)*
2. *Youth engagement, neighborhood well-being & activities, Safe Streets*
3. *Discover/communicate opportunities to serve*
4. *Develop a mechanism for mission advancement*
5. *Helping organizations discern how they can make a difference.*

Testimony on Senate Bill 389 by Rev. David C. Fulton, Wichita, Kansas

My name is Rev. Dave Fulton, I have lived in Kansas as a pastor for nearly 30 years. I have served congregations in Goodland, Topeka and now Wichita in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In 1994 Roger Cuffe was murdered in Topeka. I did Roger's funeral and sat with his mother through the murder trial of the man who killed her son. In the summer of 1994 I set out to discover what could be done to address the issue of violence. I discovered, that for the ordinary citizen the way to prevent violence is to decrease risk factors and increase protective factors through the science of prevention. I met Max Wilson and many of the senior leaders in the state wide prevention which at that time, was one of the premier systems in the nation. The question arose again and again, "how do you measure prevention?" Do you measure it in terms of the number of murders? Or other major crimes? The answer it became increasingly clear was through measuring the risk and protective factors on the state wide Communities that Care survey. This tool was administered across the state of Kansas and informed all the prevention activities in the state. It was the Communities that Care model that is the scientific basis of the Safe Streets Coalition that I founded that year in Topeka and later (2009) here in Wichita. In order for the instrument to be valid there needs to be at least 60-65% of youth that take the survey. In the early years of Safe Streets those numbers were consistently above 75%. In those days the surveys were administered by passive consent. In my early years in Wichita I managed with the help of a team to arrange for USD 259 to switch to passive consent.

When the state legislature made all school surveys in Kansas active consent, it created a lack of data that made it difficult for Safe Streets and other community coalitions to do the work they were charged with doing. This was to resolve another legislative issue but the collateral damage was to deconstruct the elegant prevention system in Kansas by taking away its foundational measurement tool.

The urgency to reverse this legislative move increases daily. Last spring I attended the National Prescription Drug and Heroin Summit in Atlanta where several presenters stated that the only way out of this crisis is prevention. Preventing illegal use of drugs and alcohol alone is the way through the substance abuse crisis including the Opioid crisis. Senate Bill 389 will enable prevention professionals back the tools necessary to do the job of prevention in Kansas. I am hopeful that the committee will send this bill forward for adoption without delay.

Rev. David C. Fulton

Chief Administrative Officer

Partners for Wichita, Inc.

Wichita, Kansas