



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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January 23, 2017

Senate Standing Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Attention: Senator Vicki Schmidt, Chairwoman
State Capitol, Room 445-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Re: Senate Bill 52

Dear Chairwoman Schmidt,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 52; these amendments are critical to the health and safety of Kansas citizens.

The opiate epidemic has affected the community that I live and work in, Johnson County. Nearly every day in Johnson County someone either overdoses or dies from an opiate that is a Kansas controlled substance. In May 2016, I was made aware that U-47700 had killed at least two people in Johnson County. U-47700 is a synthetic opiate and is not controlled in Kansas. It is considered an analog of the Federally controlled substance, AH-7921. At the time these deaths happened, AH-7921 was not controlled in Kansas either. I could not pursue criminal charges for the persons responsible for distributing this drug because neither U-47700 nor AH-7921 were controlled in Kansas.

This Bill also seeks to make Etizolam a controlled substance. Johnson County is no stranger to Etizolam; it has impacted my community as well. It is most commonly used by teenagers, with many having to go to the emergency room to treat the adverse reactions from its use.

Senate Bill 52 would allow for the scheduling of these dangerous drugs which promotes the health and safety of Kansans.

The Kansas County & District Attorneys Association supports Senate Bill 52 and respectfully asks the Committee to recommend it favorably for passage.

I thank you for your time and would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah F. Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "H".

Sarah F. Hill
Johnson County Assistant District Attorney
KCDA Drug Section Chair