



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare

From: Rachelle Colombo
Director of Government Affairs

Date: March 22, 2017

Re: HB 2217; establishing a statewide protocol for the use of opioid antagonists

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to appear before the committee in support of HB 2217, establishing a statewide protocol for the use of opioid antagonists. Kansas is currently one of just a handful of states that has not already established statutory guidelines for the use of opioid antagonists that reverse the effect of an opioid overdose.

HB 2217 enables bystanders, first responder and school nurses to administer an opioid antagonist in accordance with a statewide protocol establishing proper training, reporting and administration. The protocol also stipulates that emergency medical services are immediately contacted upon administration of an opioid antagonist. Additionally, first responder agencies will be enabled to procure a supply of opioid antagonist to prepare them for the higher level of opioid overdose they are likely to encounter.

As you are well aware, our nation is facing an epidemic of opioid abuse and overdose related deaths. Physicians are working to stay abreast of this issue with better education about pain management and prescription monitoring programs that track prescribing of controlled substances. While some opioid overdoses occur accidentally as a result of improper patient pain management, others are a result of opioid abuse. HB 2217 would ensure that regardless of what causes the opioid overdose, an antagonist reversing the effects is readily available and its administration is reported back to the physician to ensure the root problem is addressed. There are no side effects associated with opioid antagonists ensuring that their wide dissemination will not have unintended consequences. The Kansas Medical Society strongly supports HB 2217 and requests your favorable consideration and passage. Thank you.