

Testimony concerning HB 2155
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Presented by Lori Haskett, Assistant Director, K-TRACS
On behalf of
The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy
February 13, 2019

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this testimony in support of HB 2155. The bill pertains to the state medicolegal death investigation system. The bill proposes to establish an office of the state medical examiner and to include training and continuing education requirements of district and county coroners

The Board sees this as an opportunity to bring standardization to death certificate data collection. At this time there isn't a standard for toxicology related to a drug overdose death. Other states, that have established a State Medical Examiner Office are able to have a standard toxicology panel of tests. The standardization would assist Kansas in better quantifying the burden of drug overdose in our state.

The Board and the KDHE have partnered on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data Driven Prevention Initiative program, this program supports efforts to end the opioid overdose epidemic in the United States, for the past three years. We hope to continue our partnership over the next few years with a new project from CDC, Overdose to Action.

The Board's interest in this bill is related to the K-TRACS program, the Kansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which tracks and monitors Schedule II through IV controlled substances and other drugs of concern in Kansas. K-TRACS, is a potent tool in aiding in the identification of patients with drug-seeking behaviors, providing treatment, and educating the public. Each dispenser (pharmacy) is required to electronically submit information to K-TRACS for each controlled substance prescription or drug of concern dispensed in an outpatient setting. The goal of the PDMP is to prevent the misuse, abuse, and diversion of controlled substances and drugs of concern while ensuring continued availability of these medications for legitimate medical use.

Passage of HB2155 would assist Kansas in a consistent definition of drug overdose death in Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K Haskett
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Kansas Board of Pharmacy