



*TEACHING STUDENTS DECISION MAKING  
FOR SAFE & HEALTHY LIVING*

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Dear Chairman Thomas and Members of the Committee,

D.A.R.E. America is grateful for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2613. As you know, the Youth Services Division of the Kansas Attorney General's Office is sponsoring this much needed bill. According to the CDC, synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, are the leading cause of death in the United States for people 18 to 49 years old. In 2022, more than 107,000 American's died from a drug overdose. This is the time to renew our efforts and act.

Launched in 1983, D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a comprehensive K-12 prevention education program taught in thousands of schools in America, as well as many other countries. Presented by highly trained law enforcement officers, D.A.R.E. Education Programs deliver science/evidence-based curricula that teach students good decision-making skills that will help them lead safe and healthy lives. This includes coping with high-risk circumstances including drugs, alcohol, violence, bullying, internet safety, and more.

The D.A.R.E. curricula was developed through partnerships with some of the most respected institutions and individuals in America. This includes the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Penn State University, Arizona State University, University of Akron, as well as leading experts in the field of drug abuse, prevention science, and medicine.

With your support, the Kansas Attorney General's Office will be better equipped to train and maintain credible deliverers of science and evidence-based curricula. Our goal is to expand and teach D.A.R.E. to every elementary, middle, and high school. Together, we take a stand and invest in the lives of the next generation. We are making a difference one community, one school, one classroom, and one student at a time.

Sincerely,  
Craig Seibel  
Central Regional Director

**DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION**

Visit our website: [www.dare.org](http://www.dare.org)