



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Before the House Education Committee
Proponent Testimony regarding HB 2709
Bob Stuart, Executive Officer
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Chairman Thomas and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of HB 2709 which establishes a fentanyl poisoning awareness week and requires Kansas school districts to provide standardized instruction regarding the abuse and addiction of opioids during that week. Without repeating too much of the KBI's 02/08/2024 testimony regarding HB 2613 the current bill also represents a serious attempt to educate our youth about the terrible dangers of fentanyl. For that reason the KBI supports recommendation and passage of HB 2709 and will fully cooperate with educators and health professionals in order to develop and implement the most effective training possible.

Age appropriate education and awareness is so important to the Fight Against Fentanyl. Drug dealers and their crazed pursuit of "clients" and profits know no boundaries or morality. The KBI knows, and the Committee has heard, of the surreptitious forms by which fentanyl is foisted on our kids. Made out to look like more innocuous pain pill or prescriptions. Our kids have not been educated enough about what form the take, what the dealers are trying to do and the potentially fatal consequences of their actions. Moreover, they don't understand that we, the adults, need to hear about what they (the kids) see, hear and are exposed to. Our youth need to understand we don't want to punish THEM, we want to educate and help them while apprehending and punishing dealers and restricting the flow of this poison into our communities.

To that very end, the KBI is fully committed to doing everything we can to share our experiences, to craft good programs and to stand alongside our educators to arm our children with knowledge about all opioids. A week, where the majority of our students can learn and see how vital the issue is strikes the KBI as an exceptionally valuable use of resources and time. Thus we support recommendation and passage of HB 2709

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