



**Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION**

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Affairs

Date: Feb. 15, 2023

RE: Proponent Testimony for House Bill 2390

The Kansas Hospital Association, on behalf of our 123 community hospital members, appreciates very much the opportunity to express our support of House Bill 2390, the fentanyl harm reduction bill. KHA and our member hospitals partner with other providers and organizations across the state to reduce the harms caused by substance use disorder.

This legislation would implement several measures to help combat drug overdose in communities across Kansas and expand access to lifesaving measures by establishing an Overdose Fatality Review Board, amending and clarifying current law on the distribution of naloxone, and decriminalize test strips that can detect the presence of fentanyl, ketamine or gamma hydroxybutyric acid.

Kansas, like states across the nation, has not been immune to the opioid crisis. We have seen an increase in overdose deaths the last several years, from 393 overdose deaths in 2019 to 678 overdose deaths in 2021.¹

We would like to suggest that in addition to the membership representation noted in the legislation, that a representative from a hospital be appointed by KHA to the Overdose Fatality Review Board. While the legislation does reference that five additional members are to be appointed from relevant disciplines. KHA feels it would be important to specify a hospital representative; as it is critical for hospitals to share the perspective from healthcare workers who treat near overdoses in Kansas hospitals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2390. We appreciate the committee considering this important issue.

¹ Kansas Overdose Data Dashboard: Statewide Deaths. <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1309/Overdose-Data-Dashboard>