

Testimony by Cheryl Hoberecht with Pawnee County Health Department

to

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Written Only Proponent for HB 2390-February 15, 2023

Chair Landwehr and Members of the committee,

I am writing my testimony in support of HB 2390 and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. HB 2390 is important to Public Health as it is a bill to establish an overdose fatality review board and excluding tests to detect the presence of fentanyl, ketamine or gamma hydroxybutric acid in a substance from the definition of drug paraphernalia.

Local health departments play a crucial role in responding to the opioid epidemic and part of that role is supporting various harm reduction activities. HB 2390 is a piece of legislation that can help reduce that harm as section 4 adds any materials used or intended to be used to test a substance for fentanyl or a fentanyl analog to the list of items that are not considered drug paraphernalia. CDC has noted that these Fentanyl test strips as a way to reduce harm and the legalization of these test strips is a low cost way of preventing drug overdoses and potentially death. I support the legalization of these test strips as just one more way to fight drug overdoses and drug associated deaths.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Hoberecht

RN, Administrator, Health Officer

Pawnee County Health Department

715 Broadway, Larned, Ks. 67550