



**House Health and Human Services Committee
Proponent Testimony for HB 2390
February 15, 2023**

Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony supporting HB 2390. DCCCA has served Kansans for more nearly 50 years, coordinating behavioral health prevention and treatment services; child welfare services, and research and evaluation services. All DCCCA services and administrative operations have been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation since 2011. Our prevention programs are accredited under the Community Change Initiatives standard which mobilize the community for action; strengthen the capacity of residents and organizations to effect and sustain change; build and improve neighborhoods; and lay the groundwork for future progress.

DCCCA manages multiple opioid misuse prevention efforts including facilitation of the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee (a collaborative effort between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services) and statewide naloxone distribution funded by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services State Opioid Response (SOR) and First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA).

The purpose of the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee is to enhance capacity, increase quality and data availability to support data-driven strategic planning at the state and local level, and to implement best practices associated with the non-medical use of prescription drugs among targeted populations across the State. The committee is a collaboration between state agencies and partners with a vested interest in the opioid epidemic. As part of DCCCA's work with the committee, we identify initiatives addressing prescription drugs and opioids and collaborate with partners to avoid duplication of services.

Today, I'd like to focus on two key components within this bill – excluding materials used to detect the presence of fentanyl, ketamine, or gamma hydroxybutyric acid from the definition of drug paraphernalia and clarifying who may be protected from liability for administering an emergency opioid antagonist.

Since August 2020, DCCCA has implemented the naloxone distribution program in Kansas, providing nearly 25,000 kits to date. Naloxone is an

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opioid overdose reversal medication. It will not hurt someone who isn't on an opioid or have any effect on anyone that is not currently using an opioid. This means that naloxone is safe to use on ANYONE with no negative side effects. Demand for naloxone is high as individuals, community agencies, and first responders seek opportunities to ensure that naloxone is available to combat an opioid overdose emergency. Providing protections from liability for administering naloxone is critical to saving lives. Anyone should be allowed to have naloxone and administer it in the event of an opioid overdose without fear of any legal implications.

Fentanyl is dominating the opioid and stimulant supply. Individuals may think they are using one substance only to have it laced with fentanyl, causing unintentional ingestion and potential poisoning. Naloxone is one tool that can be used to save lives. Fentanyl test strips are another inexpensive harm reduction tool.

Fentanyl test strips are a tool that provide information to people who use drugs that they deserve to know. It is crucial for individuals to have information about what is in the drugs they are about to ingest. Fentanyl test strips do not tell you how much fentanyl is present, simply if it contains fentanyl or not. Data from the DEA suggest that six out of 10 illicitly manufactured pills contains a deadly dose of fentanyl. Excluding fentanyl test strips from being identified as drug paraphernalia will help reduce unintentional ingestion and save lives.

DCCCA is committed to addressing the challenges related to fentanyl poisoning and opioid misuse. We are happy to provide additional information as requested by the committee about naloxone or fentanyl test strips and how access to these resources can help our state make significant movement forward in reducing risk of harm from substance misuse.

DCCCA fully supports legislation to increase access to naloxone for all Kansans and to provide additional inexpensive harm reduction resources such as fentanyl test strips.

Thank you,

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