



February 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As a mental health and substance use treatment professional, I strongly advocate that Kansas House Bill 2390 be enacted into law. Lethal doses of fentanyl have been identified in a wide array of illicit and counterfeit drugs, and as a result, many lives have been taken long before their respective potentials were reached. People matter and they are the most effective change agent that we have – and people cannot change this world for the better if they are dead.

Among other overdose prevention strategies, Fentanyl test strips (FTS) could prevent opioid overdoses by better informing individuals who use drugs whether it contains fentanyl. As it stands, FTS are considered drug paraphernalia under state law. As a treatment professional, I have worked with thousands of people who needed several chances for recovery to take hold of their lives. That is the nature of the disease. It is a shame that many people die before they have that chance to experience the wonder of recovery. FTS are a harm reduction method that have the ability to keep a person alive long enough to reach their full potential in recovery. I have met some of the most intelligent, creative, caring, and impactful people in my life as a result of the recovery community – they are absolutely, 100%, without a doubt WORTH IT.

Thankfully, Kansas House Bill 2390 was recently introduced, which excludes FTS from drug paraphernalia classification. Additionally, Federal guidelines have changed, and organizations are allowed to use federal funding to purchase and distribute FTS. However, we CANNOT do this until statues change in Kansas. Therefore, along with my colleagues and friends in recovery,

I am requesting that the House Health and Human Services Committee (under Chair Brenda Landwehr) enact Kansas House Bill 2390 into law, allowing FTS and other overdose prevention strategies to save lives, as they were intended to.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cody Beaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cody Beaton, LSCSW, LCAC {SCKS Regional Outpatient Director}
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