



Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
715 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: 785-271-8391
www.kalhd.org

Healthy People Build Strong Communities

Written Proponent Testimony on HB 2579

Submitted To

The Committee on Health and Human Services

By

Randy Bowman, Executive Director

Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD)

January 31, 2024

On behalf of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) and our 100 member Health Departments, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this written testimony on House Bill 2579. We are a proponent for this bill.

This bill would amend K.S.A 65-6144 to allow an emergency responder, when authorized by medical protocols, or upon the order when in direct communication with defined medical professionals, to distribute nonprescription, over-the-counter medications as approved by the service medical director. The bill also defines an exception, that an emergency medical responder shall not distribute any detectable quantity of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, their salts or optical isomers, or salts of optical isomers.

That current law does not permit emergency responders to distribute the very same over-the-counter medications that can be accessed in many retail locations, seems like a missed opportunity to reduce the burden on our emergency responders, emergency rooms, and our healthcare system. One that is vital to change, particularly in this era, when this change could also increase access to life-saving overdose prevention medications.

We ask you to support this bill by voting it favorably from this Committee, and recommending its passage by the Kansas House.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this discussion.