



DCCCA
IMPROVING LIVES

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 2487
Senate Judiciary Committee
March 14, 2024

Senator Warren and Committee Members:

DCCCA has served Kansans for nearly fifty years, coordinating behavioral health prevention and treatment services; family preservation services, recruitment, training and support of foster homes; and traffic safety education and resources. All DCCCA services and administrative operations have been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation since 2011.

DCCCA facilitates the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee. The committee is a multidisciplinary stakeholder group composed of state and local government, health systems, professional associations, community-based organizations, academic institutions, public safety and first responders, and others. The advisory committee released the 2022-2027 Kansas Overdose Prevention Strategic Plan in December 2022 and continues to evolve to maximize collaboration among stakeholders.

DCCCA has operated the Kansas Naloxone Program since August 2020. Since the inception of the program, we have provided more than 46,000 kits to individuals and organizations in Kansas. Each year, we have increased the number of kits distributed in our state. During the first quarter of the new fiscal year, we have provided nearly 8,000 kits. This puts us on target for a new distribution record. The need for naloxone in Kansas continues to grow. Naloxone gives individuals a chance to live and for individuals struggling with substance use disorder, a chance at recovery.

House Bill 2487 is needed to ensure people who experience an overdose are cared for while waiting for medical services to arrive. Currently 48 other jurisdictions have Good Samaritan laws designed to prevent overdose deaths. In states with this type of law, there are lower rates of opioid-related overdose deaths. Implementing this legislation will empower friends and family members of an overdose victim to administer naloxone and other life saving measures before help arrives. Passage of this bill will save the lives of Kansans. Removing the fear of prosecution will encourage individuals who are with someone experiencing an overdose to call for help and remain with the victim until help arrives. DCCCA is committed to improving the lives of Kansans and strongly supports the tenets of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

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