

Bryan Beaver, MD FAAEM

7205 Goodman St
Overland Park, KS 66204

March 8, 2024

To the members of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare,

Greetings, committee members, I am a physician board certified in both emergency medicine and emergency medical services (EMS) and an active EMS medical director in Kansas. I firmly support House Bill 2579, as it aligns with both the capabilities of our EMS providers and the needs of our communities.

Daily, our EMS providers make life-saving decisions under pressure including the delivery of life-saving medications. Through training, continuing education, and medical oversight we ensure they maintain the skills necessary to perform critical, life-saving tasks. This skill set, training, and education makes them more than capable of handling the distribution of over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and naloxone. These over-the-counter medications have been specifically formulated and tested for general safety, and EMS providers are well-trained for their appropriate use.

HB2579 will also support the growing number of community paramedicine programs in our state. It will allow these programs to provide more comprehensive care and, by permitting community paramedics to distribute over-the-counter medications, may reduce unnecessary hospital visits, easing the burden on our emergency departments.

This legislation is an important step to further enhance healthcare delivery by EMS in Kansas. It acknowledges the capabilities of our EMS providers and addresses the needs of our communities. I encourage this committee to support HB2579, recognizing that it empowers our EMS providers with the tools they need to continue the incredible work they do.

Respectfully,

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

Bryan Beaver, MD FAAEM