



Timothy R. Graham
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs
Oral Testimony – Neutral
House Committee on Education
House Bill 2613
February 8, 2024

Chairperson Thomas, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2613.

KNEA is extremely concerned about the opioid epidemic that is affecting the nation. Our members have debated and adopted several resolutions that focus on health, safety, and welfare of students. Many of these resolutions speak to substance abuse and addiction.

One of the more direct resolutions states:

Kansas NEA believes that local and state governments should develop, establish, and implement policies to protect school districts, personnel, students and communities from substance addiction and abuse.

From this perspective, KNEA is **strongly** in favor of strengthening fentanyl and other opioid drug education programs that could save lives.

KNEA's only concern is the funding source and vehicle used to implement this worthy proposal. We would like to see the supporters of this bill ensure that this bill is written in a way that assures its success.

Thank you for your time.