



March 14, 2024

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Support for House Bill 2487

The Behavioral Health Association of Kansas (BHAK) is the state's trade organization dedicated solely to substance use disorder treatment and prevention providers seeking integrated behavioral health care. BHAK believes that integrated behavioral health means access and funding for mental illness and substance use disorder treatment without regard to where a consumer seeks services. We appreciate the growing awareness of how substance use disorder impacts health care, employment, public safety, child welfare, and we support your investment of energy and resources.

We support passage of House Bill 2487 that will keep people alive until emergency help arrives. This law will join numerous other states with similar laws which, in cooperation with law enforcement, will provide limited immunity, with several exceptions, from prosecution for an individual rendering aid to a person at risk. Our members provide drug and alcohol treatment as well as behavioral health service and we are part of the frontline addressing the impact of opioids. These protections will save lives and allows us to help individuals begin their work toward treatment and recovery.

I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.
Behavioral Health Association of Kansas

City on a Hill – Garden City
CKF Addiction Treatment - Salina
Corner House - Emporia
DCCCA - Lawrence
Higher Ground - Wichita
New Chance – Dodge City

New Dawn - Topeka

Burrell/Brightli - Olathe
Sims-Kemper - Topeka
Miracles - Wichita
Substance Abuse Center of Kansas – Sedgwick County
Seventh Direction - Wichita
Heartland Regional Alcohol and Drug Assessment
Center – Johnson County