

Testimony of Valerie Beam  
HB2487  
March 14, 2024 Committee Hearing  
Written Testimony Only

Committee Members:

My name is Valerie Beam, I lost my son Tanner on 11/12/23 to a fentanyl overdose. My story differs from most of the others that have testified. When my son died he was by himself so the passing of this bill would not have saved his life. However, had it been in place it would have had an impact on him and the medical care that he received when he overdosed on another occasion.

On March 11, 2023, Tanner overdosed on fentanyl at the Potawatomi Prairie Band Casino in Jackson County. The person he was using with called 911 because Tanner was blue in color and unresponsive. Casino Security EMTs arrived and found him in the same condition and administered Narcan to him. Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police arrived on the scene shortly after EMTs. EMTs handed the officers a tray that had a small amount of suspected fentanyl and needles. After about 3 minutes of administering Narcan Tanner became responsive. Officers talked to Tanner for a little bit and then informed him they were going to arrest him for possession of the small amount of fentanyl and needles. While the officers were distracted Tanner ran off for fear of being arrested, even though he still needed to be medically treated. Jackson County District Attorney's Office did file charges against him for possession of fentanyl and those charges were still pending when he died.

Medical Guidance for an overdose and the administration of naloxone is that the person should be monitored for **at least** 4 hours from the last dose and should be monitored longer for long-acting opioids. Naloxone has a short duration of effect and overdose symptoms can return and still lead to death if not monitored.

If the Good Samaritan law had been in place at the time, he would have been able to continue to receive medical treatment without the fear of being arrested for a felony possession drug charge.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.