



**Testimony of Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Written Proponent for HB 2487 | March 14, 2024**

Chairwoman Warren and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH) to provide written, proponent testimony in support of HB 2487, which would provide immunity from prosecution for certain drug crimes when persons seek or provide medical assistance related to the use of controlled substances. LDCPH is the public health department that serves residents of Lawrence and Douglas County. Our mission is to create abundant and equitable opportunities for good health. We also provided this testimony for the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee in January 2024.

Kansas is one of the few states that does not have a Good Samaritan law. The lack of a Good Samaritan law is seen as a barrier for well-meaning Kansans to provide care for individuals experiencing overdoses. In Douglas County, the number of opioid deaths increased by 42.9% between the 5-year time periods of 2013 to 2017 and 2018 to 2022. Most of those deaths involved synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. A Good Samaritan law provides a method to mitigate these deaths and overdoses in Douglas County and throughout Kansas.

Additionally, LDCPH has prioritized prevention of opioid deaths and overdoses in our county-wide community health plan. We encourage you to support HB 2487 to help us deliver essential public health services and contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of Douglas County residents and Kansas.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Smith".

Jonathan Smith, MPH
Executive Director
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