

Testimony in Support of Kansas House Bill 2489

Fentanyl Education & Naloxone for Kansas Schools

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Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Josh Magaha. I serve as a firefighter, EMT-FAO/driver with the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, and over the last 8+ years I've taught fentanyl and opioid overdose awareness to more than 15,000 youth and parents across high schools on the Kansas side of the Kansas City metropolitan area, in Wyandotte County, Leavenworth County, and northern Johnson County.

I want to begin by expressing my support for House Bill 2489, which would provide fentanyl education in all Kansas high schools and ensure every public school has access to naloxone (Narcan) using opioid settlement funding, not local education dollars.

Education & Awareness: The Front Line of Prevention

In my experience teaching thousands of students, I've seen firsthand that information saves lives.

Students today are encountering fentanyl where they live, learn, and socialize. They're seeing fake pills marketed online and don't realize how potent a dose can be even one pill can kill.

This bill brings accurate, science based education into every classroom so students understand:

- What fentanyl is
- How overdoses occur
- The danger of counterfeit pills
- How to recognize and respond to an overdose

Knowledge doesn't normalize drug use it protects students in a world where fentanyl is already present in our communities.

Naloxone in Schools: A Proven, Safe Life-Saving Tool

Naloxone (Narcan) is not a controversial medication it is medically safe, non-intoxicating, and cannot harm someone who is not overdosing.

We already require AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in schools for unexpected cardiac events. Narcan is the AED equivalent for opioid overdose, and every minute without it drops a person's chance of survival drastically.

Under this bill, opioid settlement funds money specifically intended to address the crisis caused by opioids will be used to provide naloxone to schools at no cost to districts.

My Work on Prevention and Advocacy

In addition to my classroom and response work, over the past year I have also:

- Presented at the 2025 Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference in Wichita a statewide event focused on collaborative solutions to the opioid and stimulant crisis held on December 2, 2025.
- Worked with Texas Productions on educational initiatives and advocacy related to fentanyl overdose awareness.
- Developed a first responder-based Opiate awareness education program that I will be presenting in late March 2026, aimed at strengthening how public safety providers teach and respond to fentanyl incidents.

These experiences have reinforced that prevention, training, and access to lifesaving tools must go hand in hand.

From the Front Lines

I have:

- Responded to overdoses in homes, parks, and yes in schools, actually we have responded to every high school in KCK due to an overdose.
- Provided naloxone to individuals who would not have survived without it
- Collaborate with parents who have lost loved ones to this epidemic.

House Bill 2489 won't eliminate every overdose. It will give students knowledge, schools preparedness, and our communities a fighting chance against this invisible threat! DC

Closing

This bill is responsible, funded, medically sound, and rooted in real experience from the front lines. It protects students and staff, and brings resources to where they are needed most.

I urge you to support House Bill 2489.

Thank you I am happy to answer any questions.