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HB 2489 Fentanyl Awareness Education
and Naloxone in schools
Proponent-Oral in person
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Chairperson and Members of the
Committee,

My name is Stacey Rogers, and I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2489. I am a mother who lost her son, Richard McCauley, to fentanyl poisoning on October 18, 2022. Like so many parents across Kansas, I never imagined that a single exposure to a synthetic opioid could

take my child's life.

Fentanyl does not discriminate, and it does not give second chances. Education and preparedness are our most powerful tools to prevent other families from experiencing this same loss.

HB 2489 takes a comprehensive and responsible approach to this crisis by pairing age-appropriate fentanyl abuse education with the requirement that schools maintain a stock supply of naloxone. Education alone is not enough, and neither is emergency response on its own. This bill recognizes that prevention and preparedness must go hand in hand.

By requiring fentanyl abuse education for students in grades nine through twelve, this legislation ensures that young people

receive accurate, life-saving information about the risks of fentanyl and other opioids, as well as the resources available to them if they or someone they know needs help. Too many students are making life-altering decisions without understanding that fentanyl is now present in counterfeit pills and other substances they may mistakenly believe are safe.

Equally important is the requirement that schools maintain naloxone. Overdoses can and do happen in school settings and at school-sponsored events. Naloxone is safe, easy to administer, and has no abuse potential. Having it readily available can mean the difference between life and death while waiting for emergency responders to arrive.

I also strongly support the provision allowing the Attorney General to use funds from the Kansas Fights Addiction Fund to provide grants to school districts for naloxone. This ensures that schools are not burdened financially and that opioid settlement funds are used exactly as intended—to save lives and mitigate the harms caused by this epidemic.

HB 2489 is not about politics. It is about protecting students, empowering schools, and giving families peace of mind that every reasonable step is being taken to keep children safe. If this bill had been law earlier, it might have saved my son's life—or the life of another child just like him.

I urge you to support HB 2489 and move it forward without delay.

Thank you for your time and your

commitment to the health and safety of
Kansas students.

Respectfully,

Stacey Rogers

Mother and Harm Reduction Advocate