

My name Amber Saale. I speak today as a grieving mother who lost my child, Kaylee, to illicit fentanyl, and as a grandmother who adopted a child whose 16-year-old father passed away and whose mother is now battling fentanyl addiction. I am also here the founder of TK Fights Fentanyl, where I do prevention work and give presentations in schools across our state. If we're honest, most of us don't know how lethal fentanyl is until it was too late — I certainly didn't. What I've seen in schools and in communities is heartbreaking: kids experimenting, peer pressure, and pills that look familiar but are often laced with fentanyl that can kill, often times the first-time someone uses. Too many families have been forever changed by this crisis. Education about illicit fentanyl and recognizing the early warning signs is not optional it's essential. When students are trained on what fentanyl is, how it's hidden, and how to help a friend, we break the cycle of addiction before it starts. And when school staff and students are trained on Naloxone, we understand every second matters. Waiting on EMS even for minutes can be the difference between life and death. Schools across the country are already stocking naloxone and training staff because overdoses, including among minors, are on the rise. I have spoken to hundreds of students and adults, and the message is always well-received. People have so many questions, and so many didn't know this information before someone shared it with them. That lack of knowledge costs lives and steals children across the world. We can get ahead of this by educating the youth. Fentanyl is killing an entire generation the only way to put a dent in the number of children and young adults dying is to educate them equipped them with the knowledge to keep them alive so they will have a brighter future and a chance to save the next generation. In honor of my daughter Kaylee and all the lives lost in this crisis, I strongly support HB2489. Sweeping this under the rug doesn't make it go away so today I ask you please help save the lives of our Kansas children and protect their futures. Thank you. for your time.