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HB 2489 Requiring school districts to provide fentanyl abuse education programs and maintain supplies of naloxone in each school.

Proponent - Written Testimony

February 5, 2026

To all it may concern,

My name is Kristen Shook, and I am writing as a community member who is involved in multiple organizations as well as a mentor for the Intersection to Care program, a program for incarcerated women inside of Shawnee County Jail.

I am reaching out to respectfully request your support for the proposed bill to protect our kids and prevent overdose deaths in schools as the lives of our children are at stake if we do not take proper procedures to inform school administration, staff, and students of the harm fentanyl and opioids can have. Furthermore, I request your support in providing funding for naloxone to be stocked in every Kansas school and ensure proper awareness education is supported.

At the Work for Success program, a participant received a phone call about her friend who was overdosing. Work for Success staff were able to provide naloxone (Narcan) so she could find her friend and administer Narcan. Upon administering, she returned to the office asking for next steps. I informed her that she needed to call 911 as this is a life or death situation.

Following this incident, I requested to mentor the individual whose life was saved that day, through the Intersection to Care program. This young lady was sentenced to the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex and had been awaiting a transfer. Due to not having a set date, as her mentor, I highly suggested and encouraged her to begin attending programming options inside of the jail. Since, she has made great progress. She is actively involved in the KU Technology class, trauma informed art class, and SMART recovery classes.

Soon she will be released and has plans to reside in Oxford House sober living, attend outpatient treatment, attend the Work for Success program, and begin to develop a plan for a successful life. Although this didn't happen in school, it highlights the need for education regarding Narcan and access for youth to take action if they need to. An incident such as this can happen anywhere, even by accident. It is our collective duty to ensure safety measures are met and accessible.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service on behalf of Kansas families and communities.

Respectfully,
Kristen Shook