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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham  
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs  
Oral Testimony – **Neutral**  
House Bill 2489  
House Committee on Education  
Thursday, February 5, 2026

Chairperson Estes, members of the Committee:

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify neutrally on HB 2489.**

Kansas NEA is a member-driven organization representing nearly 22,000 educators across the state of Kansas. Our members are organized into more than 265 local associations and work in schools and communities across nearly all 105 Kansas counties, serving students in urban, suburban, and rural districts alike.

The positions we advocate for are proposed, debated, and adopted by hundreds of educators selected by their peers to attend our annual Representative Assembly, reflecting the collective voice of education professionals of all political parties, beliefs, and backgrounds who are united by a commitment to Kansas public schools and the students they serve.

**Resolution C-3-25, as reflected in the Kansas NEA Book of Resolutions, states:**

*Kansas NEA believes that local and state governments should develop, establish, and implement policies to protect school districts, personnel, students and communities from substance addiction and abuse (including inhalant, prescription or any other drug, alcohol or tobacco dependency). These policies should include voluntary training for educators to recognize and support individuals affected.*

**Local Control and Implementation Considerations**

Kansas NEA is always cautious when legislation directs that a local board of education “shall” adopt a specific program, as mandates can limit local flexibility and create implementation challenges across districts with very different capacities. At the same time, we recognize that fentanyl abuse among teens is a serious and widely acknowledged problem, and we are willing to listen as the Legislature considers responses to this issue.

**Instructional Scope and Existing Programs**

Many districts already provide drug abuse education and prevention programming, and this bill appropriately allows fentanyl education to be integrated into existing efforts. Our concern is ensuring that any required programming remains age-appropriate, locally adaptable, and aligned with available staff, time, and resources.

### **Definition of Designated School Personnel**

The bill's definition of "designated school personnel" is broad and includes non-medical employees and volunteers who may be asked to administer naloxone outside the scope of their employment. This raises practical questions about expectations placed on staff who are not trained health professionals.

### **Liability Protections for School Personnel**

Kansas NEA is concerned about potential liability exposure for designated school personnel who administer naloxone under these provisions. We respectfully ask the Committee to consider inserting clear language that expressly addresses liability protections for these individuals, so that staff who act in good faith during an emergency are not placed at legal risk.

Kansas NEA offers these comments in a constructive spirit and as a resource to the Committee as it considers HB 2489. We believe student safety is a shared priority, and that careful attention to local implementation and clear protections for school personnel will strengthen the bill and support its intended goals.

**Thank you again for the opportunity to testify neutrally on HB 2489.**