

Jennifer Lynn Ebert  
The Jayson Ebert Foundation  
14890 Gillaspie Road  
Wamego, KS 66547  
[Jenniebert76@yahoo.com](mailto:Jenniebert76@yahoo.com)  
785-556-7053

HB 2489 Fentanyl Education in Kansas Schools  
Proponent- Written  
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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a parent in strong support of **House Bill 2489**.

No parent believes fentanyl poisoning will affect their child—until it does. Fentanyl poisonings are often not the result of addiction or intentional opioid use. Many young people are poisoned unknowingly after taking what they believe to be a pill or substance that is “safe.” The reality is that fentanyl is now present in places our kids never expect, and the margin for error is zero.

HB 2489 acknowledges this reality by requiring fentanyl poisoning education for high school students. Education is not encouragement, it is protection. When students understand how fentanyl works, how quickly poisoning can happen, and how easily counterfeit pills can be lethal, they are better equipped to make informed decisions and look out for one another.

Just as important is the requirement that every school has naloxone available. Naloxone saves lives. It is simple to use, safe, and effective. In an overdose or fentanyl poisoning, minutes matter. Waiting for emergency responders can be the difference between life and death. Schools prepare for emergencies, everyday fires, cardiac events, and allergic reactions. Fentanyl poisoning deserves the same level of preparedness.

This bill is not about discipline or blame. It is about recognizing that our children live in a different world than we did and adjusting our safety measures accordingly. I would rather know that a school had naloxone and never needed it than know it was needed and not available.

HB 2489 gives schools the tools to educate, respond, and protect students, while responsibly using opioid settlement funds to support these efforts. As a parent, I cannot think of better use of those dollars.

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 2489. Our children’s lives are worth it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Ebert

