

Helinna Bontrager  
Private Citizen  
[helinnabontrager@gmail.com](mailto:helinnabontrager@gmail.com)

HB 2489 - AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to drug abuse education programs; requiring school districts to provide fentanyl abuse education programs; mandating school districts to maintain a supply of naloxone in all schools; authorizing the attorney general to expend moneys from the Kansas fights addiction fund for grants to school districts for such naloxone; amending K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 75-777 and repealing the existing section.

Proponent - Written only

February 5, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Estes and members of the Kansas House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in support of HB 2489, which would require school districts to provide fentanyl abuse education programs and maintain naloxone supplies in schools.

My name is Helinna Bontrager, and I am currently a student at the University of Kansas and I attended Manhattan High School. On the first day of my senior year of high school, three of my peers overdosed. While first responders may have had naloxone, students at my school did not have access to any readily available supply. Even if we had, we had not received sufficient education to know how to use it. This experience showed me how unprepared schools can be for opioid-related emergencies and how vulnerable students are without proper education and resources. HB 2489 would ensure that students receive accurate and age-appropriate education about fentanyl and other opioids, helping them make informed and safer choices.

Requiring schools to maintain a stock supply of naloxone is also a critical and truly life-saving measure. Having it readily available in schools would allow quick responses rather than waiting for emergency responders, which can cost valuable minutes. I also appreciate that this bill ensures that schools are not forced to divert funds from classrooms or teachers while still protecting students' health and safety.

As a student, I believe schools should be places where students are protected, informed, and supported. HB 2489 moves Kansas in that direction. I urge the committee to support this bill.

Helinna Bontrager  
University of Kansas