

## **Testimony in Support of House Bill 2159**

Presented by Jennifer Lynn Ebert

Before the Committee on Health and Human Services, Kansas Legislature February 11, 2025

Chairperson Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jennifer Ebert, and I am here not only as a concerned citizen but as a grieving mother. On September 5, 2021, my son Jayson lost his life to fentanyl poisoning. He was 21 years old.

That morning at 8:19 AM, I received a call no parent should ever get. The sheriff told me I needed to get to Jayson's house immediately—EMS was performing CPR. When we arrived, we were told we couldn't go inside. Jayson's roommate came out in shock, telling us Jayson had been making strange noises in his sleep. When he tried to wake him, he realized something was terribly wrong and called 911.

The first officer arrived quickly, but didn't have naloxone—the life-saving medication that could have reversed Jayson's fentanyl poisoning. So my son had to wait for EMS. Seconds turned into minutes, and every moment without oxygen made it harder to save him. At 8:37 AM, my son was gone.

Jayson didn't have to die. If naloxone had been available, he might still be here today. That's why I fully support House Bill 2159. This bill would create the Emergency Opioid Antagonists Assistance Grant Fund to ensure law enforcement agencies have access to naloxone and remove unnecessary barriers preventing officers from carrying and administering it.

We are facing a fentanyl crisis that does not discriminate. Families across Kansas are losing their loved ones. Law enforcement officers are often the first on the scene of a fentanyl poisoning or an overdose, but if they don't have the tools to save a life, they are left helpless—just like the officer who responded to my son's call for help.

Passing this bill will save lives. It will give law enforcement officers the ability to act immediately instead of waiting precious minutes for EMS. It will mean that the next parent doesn't have to stand outside their child's home, powerless, as I did.

Jayson's life mattered. Every life lost to fentanyl matters. I urge you to pass House Bill 2159 and give our law enforcement the tools they need to prevent more unnecessary deaths.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
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