

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2159

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

Chairperson Carpenter, Members of the Committee,

Hello my name is Amber and I want to thank you for the opportunity to share why this bill is so important. Losing a child is a pain no parent should ever have to endure. It is through the loss of our daughter Kaylee that I have found the strength to speak out in the hopes of sparing others from the heartache her father and I live with on a daily basis.

HB2159 addresses a crucial issue, ensuring that the safety of our children is prioritized. By extending protections and ensuring accountability in the caretaking process, this bill offers the opportunity to prevent future tragedies. It is a step forward in safeguarding our children, not only by making important legal changes but also by sending a message that we will not stand by while our children are at risk.

It's important for every officer to carry Naloxone because they often arrive first at emergency scenes, including opioid overdoses. Naloxone can quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose rather than be illicit or prescription by helping save lives and restore breathing until medical help arrives. With the opioid crisis still widespread, having naloxone on hand allows officers to provide immediate help and potentially prevent deaths.

The loss of my child has changed my life forever, and while no legislation can ever fully ease the ache of that grief, it can help prevent the needless loss of other children. by passing HB 2159 we can make meaningful strides in protecting vulnerable people.

Please consider the lives of countless children, sisters, brothers, friends, mothers, fathers and grandparents. whose lives will be spared. This bill is not just about changing laws, it's about saving lives, and ensuring that no other parent has to endure the kind of loss that my husband and I have experienced.

Please support this bill and be a part of saving our future generation and protecting Kansas families from experiencing this trauma and grief.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A heartbroken mother.

Amber Saale