

Kansas Legislature Testimony-

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Proponent Testimony

In response to the increased availability of highly concentrated 7-OH products in gas stations, convenience stores, and vape shops; CRL conducted a prevalence study to determine the prevalence of usage in the general workplace population. In our study, we randomly selected over 1000 non-regulated workplace specimens. We found a prevalence of 1.09%; which is more than the prevalence of oxycodone, fentanyl, and hydrocodone combined. This represents a huge increase from almost zero prevalence in 2024. Alarming, this increase in 1 percentage point happened at the same time as fentanyl usage dropped from 1.5% in 2024 to 0.5% by the end of 2025. The closure of the border has curtailed the supply of fentanyl, and users have simply switched over to a different synthetic opioid.

CRL, as one of the largest dedicated drugs of abuse laboratories, tests over 5 million workplace urine specimens per year for drugs of abuse. These tests include marijuana, amphetamines, methamphetamine, fentanyl, oxycodone, and other opiates.

As Chief Executive Officer of CRL, and in prior positions in the industry, I have been involved with drugs of abuse testing for over 30 years. In that time, I have never seen a situation like we have with 7-OH. We effectively have an unregulated highly concentrated opioid being sold over the counter with no FDA approval, no FDA oversight, and being manufactured in uncontrolled unregulated environments. This is a synthetically manufactured opioid that is more than 10 times more powerful than morphine. It can be sold to minors and adults, with no physician oversight.

Aside from the scientific consensus that 7-OH is addictive, there have been numerous testimonies from rehab facilities establishing the seriously addictive nature of 7-OH. Talk to them in your own districts, and you will get the same answer.

The manufacturers make claims around the clinical efficacy of 7-OH, without any studies to back up their claims. What we do have are clinical studies establishing that repeat use of 7-OH leads to physical dependence and addiction. As to the professed therapeutic benefits of 7-OH; in this country we have a process for the evaluation, approval, and manufacture of therapeutic drugs. We should follow it.

This is a serious public health threat. Just as we seem to be finally containing fentanyl, this new and dangerous opioid has arisen to take its place. We need to stop it.