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Written only PROPONENT testimony to House Bill 2709
House Education Committee Hearing on February 14, 2024

Honorable Chair Thomas and Committee Members,

As the Chief of Police for the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Police Department, I fully support HB 2709.

Far too often, our children are exposed to Fentanyl, an incredibly potent synthetic opioid. The devastating effects that are experienced either personally or through association with other victims of Fentanyl poisoning profoundly impact our students' lives.

As our communities wrestle with the devastating impact of the opioid crisis, school districts must take proactive measures to educate students about the dangers of fentanyl.

Fentanyl has become a leading cause of overdose deaths across the country. Its potency presents an alarming risk to individuals experimenting with drugs, often leading to unintentional overdoses and tragic loss of life. Alarmingly, many young people may not fully understand the severity of the risks associated with fentanyl use.

By dedicating a week to fentanyl awareness in schools, we can provide students with essential knowledge about the dangers of this substance. I urge you to consider passing HB 2709.