



<http://www.marc.org/Emergency-Services-9-1-1/MARCER>

To: Kansas House Health & Human Services Committee  
RE: Support for HB 2579  
Date: January 27, 2024  
From: Jeff Boss, Chair of MARCER, EMS Battalion Chief, Med-Act, [Jeff.Boss@jocogov.org](mailto:Jeff.Boss@jocogov.org)

MARCER supports passage of HB 2579.

Mid- America Regional Council (MARC) is the bi-state council of local governments serving nine area counties in the KS/MO area of Kansas City. MARC has a subcommittee regarding emergency medical services, (MARCER) consisting of over 35 area EMS agencies and 20 hospitals that collaborate through MARCER for various issues such as communications, disaster planning, hospital diversion, TCD, group purchasing and numerous policy initiatives.

The EMS agencies in the MARC region support the passage of HB 2579 which will allow ambulance service owners, managers and physician medical directors to decide what if any “Over-The-Counter” (OTC) medications EMS personnel could distribute.

Currently OTC medications can be distributed by anyone in Kansas except for EMT’s and paramedics due to an interpretation of 65-6119, 6120,6121 & 6144, regarding the scope of practice of EMS personnel. While the attorneys for both Johnson and Wyandotte Counties disagreed with the interpretation by Kansas Board of EMS, we believe that proposing legislation is the most precise way to clarify the issue.

HB 2579 will allow EMS agencies to provide Tylenol to firefighters with headaches, OTC medications while staffing first aid stations at county fairs, warming shelters in the winter and many other occasions when called upon.

The average citizen in Kansas can provide Tylenol to a friend yet according to the Kansas Board of EMS, EMT’s and paramedics cannot.

Johnson County Med-Act and the Kansas City Kansas Fire Department seek to establish an opioid antagonist “Leave Behind” program. Paramedics responding to overdose emergencies would leave behind a bag with some OTC nasal naloxone for the residents of the home. We are aware of at least 39 states with such programs, and we cannot find any other state where this is prohibited as in Kansas.

We welcome any opportunity to answer questions regarding this issue.