



Proponent Written Testimony on behalf of the Kansas Public Health Association

House Committee on Health and Human Services

January 31, 2024 | HB 2579

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the committee:

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) to provide written, proponent testimony on HB 2579, which would authorize the board of medical emergency services to distribute non-prescription-over-the-counter medications. KPHA is an organization representing over 800 healthcare providers and professionals in the state of Kansas.

Under current law, EMS providers cannot distribute over the counter medications, like Narcan. A revision to the current statute would allow clarity for those EMS providers to distribute Narcan and other important medications that could save lives. According to data available from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, over 738 drug overdoses resulted in death in 2022. If EMS providers had the ability to distribute Narcan, many of these overdoses could have been avoided.

The Kansas Public Health Association encourages you to support HB 2579 to make Narcan more readily available for those who need it.

Thank you,

Ruaa Hassaballa-Muhammad
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