



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

To: Seante Committee on Public Health & Welfare

RE: Support for HB 2579

Date: March 7, 2024

From: Jeff Boss, Chair of MARCER, EMS Battalion Chief, Med-Act, 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.

There has been a considerable amount of confusion as to what is allowed under the current law governing Emergency Medical Services. HB 2579 will clarify the issue for the EMS personnel in the state as well as the Board of EMS.

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.

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 state where this is prohibited.

We welcome any opportunity to answer questions regarding this issue.