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Healthy People Build Strong Communities

Testimony by Dennis Kriesel with the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) to

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Written-Only Proponent for HB 2390 • March 9, 2023

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in writing in support of HB 2390, a bill to establish an overdose fatality review board and excluding tests to detect the presence of fentanyl, ketamine, flunitrazepam, or gamma hydroxybutyric acid in a substance from the definition of drug paraphernalia. KALHD is a nonprofit association dedicated to strengthening local health departments for the purpose of improving and protecting the health of all Kansans and consists of all 100 local health departments in Kansas.

Local health departments play a critical role in responding to the opioid epidemic and part of that role is supporting various harm reduction activities. We view HB 2390 as a piece of legislation that can help reduce harm, specifically via Section 4 which adds any materials used or intended for use to test a substance for the presence of fentanyl or a fentanyl analog to the list of items that are not considered drug paraphernalia. Fentanyl test strips are noted by the CDC as a harm reduction strategy¹ and legalizing their use offers a low-cost way to help prevent drug overdoses.

Legalizing the ability to test for dangerous drugs offers a lot of positives for the residents of Kansas. As such, KALHD supports HB 2390 and asks the committee to recommend it for passage.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kriesel

Executive Director, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments

¹ CDC webpage on fentanyl test strips: <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html>