



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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House Judiciary Committee
March 22, 2021
HB 2412

Kansas Association of Counties
Proponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Patton and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer testimony on HB 2412, which would enact the Kansas Fights Addiction Act to establish a grant program to distribute funds from the nationwide opioid litigation. This bill would create a board to review the distribution of those funds.

The Kansas Association of Counties and its member counties would like to thank the Attorney General and his staff for their work on this issue, and the spirit of collaboration that they have utilized in this undertaking, and for having a role on the board to help determine how these settlement funds will be distributed.

Opioid addiction and abuse has been a problem across the country. In 2018, 69.4% of all overdose deaths in the United States were related to opioids (46,802 of 67,367 total overdose deaths). In that same year, there were 345 overdose deaths in Kansas. 156 of those involved opioids. There were 63.4 opioid prescriptions per 100 people in the state of Kansas written in 2018. That exceeded the national average of 58.7.¹

Those numbers are what have made this settlement necessary and important as communities across the state recover from the impacts that opioid addiction and abuse have caused in the state of Kansas.

HB 2412 is an important first step in distributing the funds from these settlements to begin this recovery process. KAC stands ready to assist in this process as outlined in this bill, as well as in any other way in which we and our member counties can do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the committee. KAC encourages the committee to recommend HB 2412 favorably for passage.

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¹ <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/kansas-opioid-involved-deaths-related-harms>