

TESTIMONY: HB2365.LisaVayda.2-22-21.PRO

Chairman and Rep. Patton and members of the Kansas House of Representatives  
Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lisa Vayda, and I am a pharmacist in Wichita, KS. I am a proponent of House Bill 2365: AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment, and criminal procedure; relating to controlled substances; immunity from prosecution for seeking medical assistance.

As a Kansas citizen, health care provider, and community advocate, I have worked for several years battling this awful opioid epidemic. I was involved with the 2017 Naloxone Bill and so pleased when Kansas passed it. It has saved lives in Kansas. Sadly, though, were the 49<sup>th</sup> state to pass this law.

Now, we are among a handful of states that do not have a "Good Samaritan 911" bill. This is at a time when drug overdose deaths are increasing, especially involving illicitly produced fentanyl. (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/fentanyl.html>).

In early 2020, fentanyl disguised as counterfeit oxycodone 30 mg tablets, showed up in Wichita, KS and ended in tragedy.

(<https://sedgwickcounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f7adb4d93b174191b0d3af4fee68cbb7>) Thus, we know deadlier drugs are in our community.

These situations usually require higher doses of naloxone and immediate medical attention. Unfortunately, this may not happen when those at the scene are afraid of being arrested.

I come here today representing many Kansas Citizens who have shared their heartbreaking narratives about their child, loved one, colleague, or friend who might be alive today if someone had called 911 when they overdosed. We do not always know the reasons why they did not seek medical assistance. However, passage of this bill would remove the barrier of fear of prosecution for seeking medical attention, and possibly more importantly saving a life.

Respectfully submitted,

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