



SEDGWICK COUNTY
Health Department

Adrienne Byrne
Health Director

**Testimony by Adrienne Byrne, Sedgwick County Health Director 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. Sedgwick County Health Department's mission is *'To improve the health of our residents by preventing disease, promoting wellness and protecting the public from health threats.'* Fentanyl is a health threat.

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 Sedgwick County and all of Kansas. As such, Sedgwick County Health Department supports HB 2390 and asks the committee to recommend it for passage.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Byrne, Health Director
Sedgwick County Health Department

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

