



**House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
Proponent Testimony for HB 2328
February 15, 2023**

Chairman Owens and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony supporting HB 2328. DCCCA has served Kansans for nearly 50 years, coordinating behavioral health prevention and treatment services; child welfare services, and research and evaluation services. All DCCCA services and administrative operations have been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation since 2011. Our prevention programs are accredited under the Community Change Initiatives standard which mobilize the community for action; strengthen the capacity of residents and organizations to effect and sustain change; build and improve neighborhoods; and lay the groundwork for future progress.

DCCCA manages multiple opioid misuse prevention efforts including facilitation of the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee (a collaborative effort between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services) and statewide naloxone distribution funded by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services State Opioid Response (SOR) and First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA).

Since August 2020, DCCCA has implemented the naloxone distribution program in Kansas, providing nearly 25,000 kits to date. Naloxone is an opioid overdose reversal medication. It will not hurt someone who isn't on an opioid or have any effect on anyone that is not currently using an opioid. This means that naloxone is safe to use on ANYONE with no negative side effects. Demand for naloxone is high as individuals, community agencies, and first responders seek opportunities to ensure that naloxone is available to combat an opioid overdose emergency.

Fentanyl is dominating the opioid and stimulant supply. Individuals may think they are using one substance only to have it laced with fentanyl, causing unintentional ingestion and potential poisoning. Naloxone is one tool that can be used to save lives. Fentanyl test strips are another inexpensive harm reduction tool.

Fentanyl test strips are a tool that provide information to people who use drugs that they deserve to know. It is crucial for individuals to have

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information about what is in the drugs they are about to ingest. Fentanyl test strips do not tell you how much fentanyl is present, simply if it contains fentanyl or not. Data from the DEA suggest that six out of 10 illicitly manufactured pills contains a deadly dose of fentanyl. Excluding fentanyl test strips from being identified as drug paraphernalia will help reduce unintentional ingestion and save lives.

DCCCA is committed to addressing the challenges related to fentanyl poisoning and opioid misuse. We are happy to provide additional information as requested by the committee about naloxone or fentanyl test strips and how access to these resources can help our state make significant movement forward in reducing risk of harm from substance misuse.

DCCCA fully supports legislation allowing inexpensive harm reduction resources such as fentanyl test strips.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrissy Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chrissy Mayer
Chief Community-Based Services Officer cmayer@dccca.org