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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee  
In Support of SB414**

March 5, 2024

Chairman Owens and Committee Members:

Our associations initiated SB414 to address the nationwide fentanyl issue from the supply chain side. Fentanyl is a very dangerous drug that is most often not sold to end users in pure form but mixed with other types of drugs. Often these fentanyl-laced drugs are pressed into tablet form or placed in capsules to mimic real prescription drugs. And although many users do not have prescriptions for what they are taking, they are tricked into falsely believing they are consuming a prescription grade substance. The forensic laboratories in Kansas are seeing a significant percentage of illegal drugs laced with fentanyl and/or pressed into what looks like pharmaceutical grade drugs. And by now, we are all aware of the high death rates occurring because of the fentanyl problems we are facing.

The Senate Committee added the contents of SB413 to the bill. Our associations also support those provisions. These add an amendment to K.S.A. 21-6805 in section 1, with the substantive changes found on page 3, lines 5-15 and lines 39-40.

The changes the original SB414 made section 1 of the bill were also included in SB413.

The substantive change in sentencing in the original SB414 is found on page 8, lines 3 through 10. These changes were not included in SB413. This amendment will impose the same sentencing enhancements placed on manufacturing fentanyl-related substances last year. That includes making all violations of DSL1, DSL2, and DSL3 distribution of a controlled substance containing a fentanyl-related substance presumed imprisonment and the doubling of the maximum sentence. These increases would apply only for the highest three severity levels of distribution of controlled substances. It intentionally does not include the lowest severity level of distribution of controlled substances, drug severity level 4 crimes.

This bill targets the distributors who are the supply chain providing access to these deadly drugs to Kansans, including our children. We believe these changes are necessary and will target those profiting from the sales and distribution of these fentanyl substances killing our Kansas children and adults.

We encourage you to move the bill forward favorably.

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