



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
CARING FOR KANSANS

Testimony: HB 2390
House Committee on Health and Human Services
February 13, 2023
Written Only

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2390. The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) represents nearly 2,000 family physicians, resident physicians and medical students across our state. Providing quality health care and good health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work.

As family physicians, we experience first-hand the impact of overdose deaths on our patients and their families. Nationally, these deaths have increased six-fold from 1999 to 2018 and are now considered an epidemic.

The KAFP believes establishing the Kansas overdose fatality review board, removing fentanyl test strips from the drug paraphernalia list and clarifying liability in the use of emergency opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, will be important steps in preventing overdose deaths in our state.

Overdose fatality review teams serve a great need and purpose. Their work can identify patterns in drug use in a particular community, improve data accuracy related to overdose deaths, identify emerging dangers, enhance service coordination and provide recommendations for policies and programs to prevent overdose fatalities.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. In the illegal drug market, it is frequently added to other drugs, packaged to resemble prescription opioid and unknowingly consumed. It can be deadly in even small doses and cannot be identified through taste or smell. Only fentanyl test strips can identify if the drug has been laced.

Naloxone is a safe opioid antagonist. This life-saving medication acts by reversing the effects of opioids. It is small, easy to carry and can be administered nasally. It can reverse the overdose within minutes. Even if mistakenly administered to an individual not overdosing on opioids, it will not cause harm.

The KAFP supports this bill because it will save the lives of our patients.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit our comments. We appreciate your thoughtful examination of all matters regarding the health and safety of Kansans.

About Kansas Academy of Family Physicians:

KAFP represents nearly 2,000 active, resident, student and life members across the state. Our member physicians are vibrant and trusted members of their communities and are dedicated to creating a healthier Kansas. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.