



## COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

From the desk of Commissioner Mike Stieben

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March 20, 2024

To: Kansas Senate Committee on Education

From: Leavenworth County Commissioner Mike Stieben

RE: Support for HB2613- D.A.R.E. Education bill

Dear Committee Members:

I am here today to support the drug use education bill (HB2613), which will help educate young people, about the dangers of drug use. This bill will provide for a statewide drug educator and mandate that fentanyl education be included in the curriculum.

Across the State of Kansas our communities have been devastated by the loss of life and destruction of human potential caused by drug addiction and by direct deaths attributed to fentanyl. This is a multi-faceted issue and this legislation is just one part of the solution. Make no mistake about it I believe this legislation will help as our communities put this issue on the front burner for our educators and the public.

Sadly, we have seen a loss of traditional moral values in the last few decades as family structure has declined and social institutions have been tested by a loss of faith. It is my hope that this legislation will help to increase parental involvement in connection with avoiding the use of drugs. We must offer our children resources from our churches and synagogues for their spiritual needs, as well as from our local communities and schools for their mental health needs. We must help our children and young people to have access to needed resources so that they will be able to see their own self- worth and value as God's children and as needed members of our communities.

Many of our loved ones have already fallen to this scourge, now is the time to act on many fronts including education and enforcement. Thank you for all you are doing as legislators serving the people of Kansas I urge you to move this legislation forward.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of passage of HB2613 the D.A.R.E. Education bill.

Cordially yours,

Mike Stieben  
Leavenworth County Commissioner