



KANSAS CITY, KANSAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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TO: Senate Committee of Public Health and Welfare
FROM: Mark Heath, Chief of EMS
DATE: March 8th, 2024
SUBJECT: HB 2579 Over-the-Counter Medications

The Kansas City Kansas Fire Department and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County Leadership would like to show our support for this bill to allow Paramedics to dispense over-the-counter medications.

This bill is a simple fix for EMS in Kansas, that has been an issue for years. We can administer medication at the scene of an emergency but cannot leave behind something as simple as a second dose of Tylenol or Ibuprofen.

Our Fire Department in partnership with Vibrant Healthcare is in its second year of our Community Paramedic program, and this legislation will assist in the cost-effective care we provide. Our goal with this program is to reduce costly ambulance rides and assist in reducing overcrowded emergency rooms. This bill allows us to leave behind a second medication dose for the patient.

Our agency would like to allow paramedics to "leave behind" OTC Narcan. Our agencies respond to and manage overdose patients frequently. Because we are in the homes and locations where drug use often occurs, we would like to leave behind Narcan to allow a better chance of saving a patient or child in the household.

This bill is a simple fix to a straightforward issue that will provide quick, effective care to the community. I appreciate your consideration of this bill.

APPROVED

BY

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

BY 

DATE 3/8/2024