



To: Senate Education Committee

From: Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals  
Steve Denny, Chairman

Date: February 15, 2018

Re: Written support for SB 389

Senator Baumgardner and members of the Senate Education Committee thank you for considering the thoughts of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP) regarding Senate Bill 389. KAAP is the state's largest non-profit member association devoted solely to substance use disorder treatment providers and prevention programs across Kansas.

KAAP recognizes the concerns regarding student privacy and the delicate balance policy makers such as yourselves must be able to strike. The provisions of Senate Bill 389 will restore the usable date from actions previously taken while protecting student privacy. How this measure defines "De-identified student data" and how it can be used we hope strikes the correct balance.

Following the change in the law in 2014 to the Kansas Communities that Care (KCTC) student survey, participation dropped from 70.29% in 2014 to 26.75% in 2015. This was so low in 2015, the participation rate was rendered to be invalid. The 2016 rate did increase, but only to 37% and some counties did not have enough responses to have reliable data. The survey provides vital data needed for monitoring, evaluating and prevention planning vital to youth health and safety, as well as tracking longitudinal trends across the State. It provides data needed to justify use of Substance Abuse Block Grant funds and to apply for community grants including the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Department of Justice, and Drug Free Communities.

We are optimistic with the amendments in Senate Bill 389, the KCTC survey which is and has always been intended to be anonymous and voluntary, will be more robust and complete in identifying the specific risk and protective factors regarding youth and their substance abuse behaviors. This aids treatment professionals and those prioritizing efforts to areas that are likely to be the most effective.

Any advantage we may collectively employ to assist in preventing youth from abusing alcohol and drugs, while meeting privacy concerns, gives us all a leg up on helping Kansas youth succeed.

Thank you for considering our comments and this important piece of legislation for Kansas.