

Date: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

From: Megan Seidl, D.O.

Re: Support for excluding fentanyl test strips from the definition of “drug paraphernalia” in HB 2277

Dear Chairwoman Warren and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Megan Seidl. I am a family doctor, and medical director of a community health center with locations in Junction City and Manhattan, Kansas. I am writing to you about the upcoming hearing to discuss House Bill 2277.

Our clinics offer medication assisted treatment and case management for patients with opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders. Since our program started two years ago, we continue to see more and more patients reaching out for help because they want to stop using opioids. It is a common story that these patients decide to stop using because they realize there is fentanyl in their substances, and they realize how dangerous that is. Unfortunately, that realization often comes when they or someone they know experiences an overdose event. They are being intentionally misled – often fentanyl pills are stamped with prescription-like labels and they believe it came from a regulated pharmacy.

Fentanyl test strips help prevent overdose, which will decrease traffic in our overwhelmed emergency departments, and allow patients to access care in the more efficient outpatient setting.

Fentanyl test strips allow Kansans to make safer decisions. For many of our patients, that decision is to stop using drugs altogether.

It should not take a fatal or near-death experience for our community members to learn they are taking fentanyl.

Kansans are being poisoned. Fentanyl test strips are a cost-effective way to help us protect our citizens.

Please exclude fentanyl test strips from the definition of “drug paraphernalia” when you discuss House Bill 2277.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Megan Seidl, D.O.