

Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Ana Woodburn, and I am the president of Kansas Recovery Network, a person in long-term recovery and a Kansan. I thank the committee for the time to speak today. Excluding fentanyl testing strips from the definition of “drug paraphernalia” will assist a good deal of Kansans. During this tumultuous time there are many pressing issues which affect us all and require addressing, this is one of them.

Fentanyl test strips were manufactured to test urine for the presence of the deadly drug post consumption. They can also be used to test a substance for the presence of fentanyl prior to consumption. Utilizing Fentanyl test strips has been proven to reduce the risk of overdose. A study completed by Johns Hopkins found that 85% of participants do want to know if there is fentanyl in a substance and 70% of respondents reported that knowing a substance contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior and utilize less-risky strategies.

When a person, of any demographic and any situation, uses, experiments with, or tries a substance, even one time they are at risk for a fatal overdose. When a person intends to use one substance and they overdose due to the presence of an unknown substance then it is not a drug overdose, but a poisoning.

Increasing access to fentanyl test strips is happening or has happened in many states. Adjusting this statute to exclude fentanyl testing strips from the definition of “drug paraphernalia” fosters many positive outcomes including saving lives. This capability also reduces costs to first responders, law enforcement and hospitals as well as bringing grant dollars to Kansas to implement strategies such as this. Kansas has learned to adapt in large and small ways to support Kansans and this change is as simple as changing verbiage.

Thank you.