



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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February 29, 2024

Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
Attention: Chairman Stephen Owens
State Capitol, Room 274-W
300 W. 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Senate Bill 419

Dear Chairman Owens,


Thank you for the opportunity to submit our written response in support of SB419.

The explosion of fentanyl across this country has also had a significant impact in Kansas communities. This drug is unique because of the level of lethality it has to the users of this drug. Over the last 4 years the number of fentanyl deaths in Johnson County have more than quadrupled. The number of emergency room visits has doubled. The statewide numbers reflect a similar increase. In 2022 over 400 Kansans died from this deadly drug. This is despite the positive efforts by this governing body to reduce fatalities through public access to testing strips and naloxone.

We all recognize a need for a multifaceted approach to minimize the impact of this dangerous drug on the citizens of Kansas. Our Association has seen a number of cases where fentanyl has been left out in the open, resulting in children being exposed to this dangerous drug. Unfortunately, this has resulted in severe injuries and death to these innocent children.

This bill allows us to hold people accountable for this reckless conduct towards Kansas children. Our association asks this committee to pass SB 419.

Sincerely,


Stephen M. Howe
Johnson County District Attorney
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