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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB240
February 17, 2023**

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB240. This bill proposes adding to the crime of aggravated child endangerment the causing or permitting a child to be in an environment where the person knows or reasonably should know that any fentanyl-related controlled substance is present. This applies to manufacturing drugs in subsection (b)(3) and with distribution of drugs in subsection (b)(2).

This is a commonsense approach to our fentanyl crisis. Too often the victims of fentanyl poisoning are children who have no idea what they have found and decide to eat. While this just addresses one aspect of the fentanyl crisis, protecting our children from accidental overdoses should be high on our priorities.

It is also important to remember those who possess these drugs are already committing a crime. Committing those crimes in a manner that also puts children at risk is certainly an aggravating factor.

This is a nationwide problem. But it is also a Kansas problem. The evidence of this can be found in the 2022 report from the Kansas Child Death Review Board.¹ That report shows there were 11 child deaths in Kansas related to fentanyl in 2020. Keep in mind that data is just the deaths, not those that were successfully treated for a fentanyl overdose.

We urge you to move this bill forward favorably.

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¹ See page 50 of the 2022 report of the Kansas Child Death Review Board: https://ag.ks.gov/docs/default-source/reports/scdrb/2022-scdrb-annual-report.pdf?sfvrsn=bac7a21a_2