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House of Representatives

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John R. Whitmer  
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Testimony  
House Committee on Corrections & Juvenile Justice  
HB 2091  
January 24, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today in support of House bill 2091.

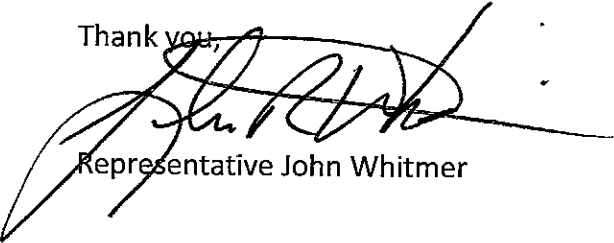
While we may disagree on the merits of medical amnesty legislation I hope one area we can agree on is the fact that parents or guardians of minor children should be notified when their child would be able to take advantage of such immunities. That is all this legislation seeks to accomplish, it adds a parental notification clause to the medical amnesty bill passed in 2016.

Ironically both the University of Kansas and Kansas State University, two proponents of the 2016 bill, have parental notification components in their campus medical amnesty policies. Good Samaritan or medical amnesty policies are designed and intended to support the students, however that does not mean that students should not be held responsible for the consequences of their decisions and who better than their parents to help them learn from those decisions.

It is my hope that through this legislation we will continue to promote a policy that embodies a proactive approach to this issue while at the same time further acknowledging that a problem with underage drinking exists. Instituting another step toward intervention on behalf of the underage student in need of assistance is the responsible and reasonable next step in this process.

I ask for your due consideration of this important legislation.

Thank you,

  
Representative John Whitmer