



**Kansas Association of
Chiefs of Police**
PO Box 780603
Wichita, KS 67278
(316)733-7300



**Kansas Sheriffs
Association**
PO Box 1122
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620)230-0864



**Kansas Peace Officers
Association**
PO Box 2592
Wichita, KS 67201
(316)722-8433

**Testimony to the House Health and Human Services Committee
In Support of HB2217 – Emergency Opioid Antidotes
February 7, 2017**

Chairman Hawkins and Committee Members,

Our associations strongly support HB2217. The bill proposes a procedure for allowing first responders to have access to these drugs which counter opioid overdoses. We will let others with medical expertise explain the medical applications and safety of these drugs. Many states already allow first responders to have access to these drugs and administer them to those experiencing opioid overdoses. There are numerous stories of lives saved because of those actions.

Kansas has not yet experienced the horrific levels of opioid overdoses that have been seen in other states. To be clear, we have seen opioid overdoses and deaths in Kansas, just not in the numbers other states have seen. But it is increasing and this bill prepares us to be able to respond.

In December of last year nine people died of heroin overdoses in Philadelphia over one weekend. In August of 2016, there were 174 reported heroin overdoses over a six day period in Cincinnati.

A June 3, 2016, KSNT (Topeka) news reported on deaths already occurring in Kansas from a synthetic opioid known as U-47700. Over a one week period over this past Christmas, Shawnee County experienced at least 9 heroin overdoses. Prescription opioid abuses also lead to overdoses.

We have an opportunity to prepare our first responders to save lives with this bill.

We strongly encourage you to move this bill favorably.

Ed Klumpp
E-mail: eklumpp@cox.net
Cell: (785) 640-1102