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Rob Santel
Regarding House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
January 23, 2024

Dear Committee,

My name is Rob Santel, and I am the Director of Programs at Cross-Lines Community Outreach in Kansas City, Kansas. I am writing to you today in support of H.B. No. 2487, the 'Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Bill'. This bill would allow social workers such as myself the ability to administer life-saving interventions to those experiencing an overdose without fear of prosecution and/or liability.

Cross-Lines Community Outreach is a nonprofit organization that provides direct aid services regarding both hunger relief and housing stabilization. Staff members at Cross-Lines often work directly with individuals who suffer from substance use disorder. If Kansas were to follow other states and pass a Good Samaritan Law, those on our campus would be able to administer life-saving interventions such as NARCAN to those in distress of a drug overdose without fear of prosecution and/or liability.

Cross-Lines has NARCAN dispense machines as well as fentanyl test strips available in all of our Cross-Lines buildings. All staff members at Cross-Lines have been trained on how to safely administer NARCAN to someone experiencing an overdose. On multiple occasions, staff have had to use NARCAN on guests experiencing an overdose, which helped save their lives. This law would truly help to prevent overdose deaths, as individuals would feel safe stepping in and offering that aid.

We are extremely appreciative to the Kansas Legislature for making fentanyl test strips available last legislative session. Many of our guests have reduced their substance use due to finding out fentanyl was mixed into substances they had intention of using. These guests were completely unaware that fentanyl was mixed in prior to testing.

Having a Good Samaritan Law on record would give organizations like ours the peace of mind to administer life-saving interventions to those experiencing an overdose. This law would also protect all staff who have licensures ensuring aid is provided as quickly as possible. Thank you to all members of the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice for reading this testimony. Your consideration of these matters is greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Rob Santel