

2/19/2021

Dear Judiciary Committee,

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of HB 2365, some of you have already received letters from me telling the story of our beloved Mark Whitt.

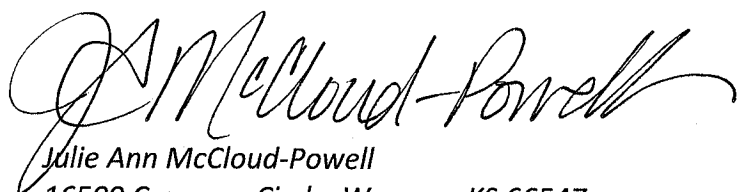
Mark was a fun good hearted man, a loving brother, a son who loved his dad, a wonderful friend, an beloved uncle, a proud father, and the list goes on and on. 1 in 3 people know someone or knew someone who struggle with addiction and who they were as a person before addiction changed everything and defined them. Mark once was talented, a painter, a true one of a kind artist in his trade. You actually drive by a lot of his works on commercial buildings daily. He was a real person with a real story that ended way too soon. Addiction was also a part of his history and many other successful talented people along with him. If telling his story helps pass HB 2365 it will help save many future lives in Kansas.

This past year nationwide, overdoses were up by 20%, we must do something to help concerning punishment and criminal procedure; relating to controlled substances and overdoses; with immunity from prosecution for seeking medical assistance. This will SAVE LIVES. We need a good Samaritan 911 law in place for Kansas. We are one of the last states to consider this legislation. Together we can make a change for the better in Kansas.

Law Enforcement Officers want to save lives First and Foremost, they are usually the FIRST on the scene, especially in small towns across our state. People are hesitant to report overdoses for fear of prosecution. Law Enforcement officers ,regardless of what the media might say about them these days, all wish they carried the necessary supplies to assist with an overdose and they wish they were reported sooner by someone there on scene to save lives. I know this because, I have been married to an honest, good hearted small town Law Enforcement officer for over 15 years and counting. When they are driving 100 mph down the street to an address running code, the first thing on their mind is saving a life and getting there in enough time to do so, not making a drug arrest.

In July of 2018 Kansas passed a Good Samaritan law for leaving a person or a pet in locked car and it was considered "Common Sense Legislature" by many when passed, even several Law Enforcement Leaders who spoke out about it across the state. It was also considered to be a basic human instinct to want to help save a life. I truly feel this is that of a similar nature, and as important.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and for serving in the legislature.



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