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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
In Support of HB2487
March 14, 2024**

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB2487. The fentanyl crisis is only getting worse. We must provide encouragement for anyone suffering a medical emergency to receive immediate care. If the provisions in this bill result in just one saved life it will have been worth it. Our first priority in a matter involving a medical emergency is the care and treatment of the person needing care. Secondary to that is identifying the source of the medical emergency, and if it involved a criminal act and to investigate the crime. Our focus in these cases where illegal drugs caused the medical emergency is on those manufacturing and distributing the illegal drugs. We also do not want any immunity to negatively impact our ability to investigate the crime of distribution of a controlled substance resulting in great bodily harm or death.

Our support hinges on these conditions remaining in the bill:

1. Immunity cannot be given for violations of the drug distribution or drug manufacturing laws and can only be provided for violations of simple possession crimes.
2. The person seeking immunity must have been directly involved in providing care for the person suffering a medical emergency or notified emergency responders of the medical emergency.
3. The person seeking immunity must remain at the scene and cooperate with providing information to emergency responders as currently in the bill.

To that end, the House Committee passed the amendments found on page 2, lines 12 and 14 at our request.

Our associations are very interested in supporting not only legislative action that enhances our ability to detect, deter, and prosecute drug violations, but also in supporting other actions that can aid in reducing the resulting deaths. These include things like what is included in HB2487, along with addiction treatment program availability, educational programs about the harmful effects of drugs, among other harm reduction programs that do not impede prosecution of drug manufacturers and distributors.

We encourage the committee to recommend the bill favorably.

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