



JOINT COUNCIL OF TEAMSTERS NO. 37

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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Tony L. Andrews
President

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House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support House Bill 2376 to Protect Oregonians At-Risk of Opioid Overdose

Dear Chair Prusak and House Committee on Health Care members:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Teamsters Joint Council 37 and our 23,000 members throughout Oregon to express strong support for House Bill 2376. Our emergency medical service (EMS) workers, including many first responders and law enforcement officials, see firsthand the impact that the opioid epidemic has on our communities each and every day. We urge you to pass House Bill 2376 to help ensure more Oregonians at-risk of opioid-related overdose can access potentially life-saving medication such as naloxone in emergency situations.

House Bill 2376 would protect more at-risk patients and all Oregonians from the fatal harms of opioid overdoses **by requiring Oregon providers who prescribe opioids to simultaneously offer a prescription for naloxone and educate their patients about their risk of an overdose.** Co-prescribing laws are an effective means to increase access to potentially life-saving opioid overdose reversal medications for those at risk of an overdose. By enacting this legislation, Oregon would join ten other states with co-prescribing mandates – states that have seen increases in access to naloxone as more health care professionals prescribed naloxone to patients.

Teamsters Joint Council 37 members are on the frontlines of the opioid crisis. For our members, statistics about the prevalence and increase in opioid overdose fatalities in our state before and during COVID-19 are more than just that – they represent real people – family members, friends, and neighbors – who could have been saved if they had access to naloxone.

We urge you to support House Bill 2376, critical legislation that will save lives by ensuring more Oregonians can access naloxone alongside their opioid prescription.

On behalf of Teamsters Joint Council 37, we thank you for your leadership on this issue and your continued support of our members.

Sincerely,



Tony Andrews, President
Teamsters Joint Council 37