

March 26, 2021

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

**RE: Support House Bill 2376 to Equip More Oregonians with Lifesaving Overdose Reversal Medication**

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 2376. I am on the board of Bridges Collaborative Care Clinic, a student-run clinic that provides health and social services for vulnerable populations in the Portland area. At Bridges, our mission is to engage Portland's vulnerable populations by providing low-barrier care and services. To properly meet the healthcare needs of those at-risk of an opioid overdose, **I support House Bill 2376, which would require Oregon providers to simultaneously offer a prescription for naloxone when prescribing opioids and educate their patients about their risk of an overdose.**

I have personally administered naloxone multiple times and recognize the need to expand naloxone education and access across Oregon. The recent rise in the number of fatal overdoses in our state only further substantiates this need: [339 people died](#) in Oregon of drug overdoses between January and June 2020 – a 40 percent increase from the same time period in 2019. Thankfully, the Oregon legislature has the opportunity to change this narrative by passing House Bill 2376.

Passing House Bill 2376 is a simple and common-sense solution to increase access to naloxone and curb the increase in overdose fatalities in our state. I urge you to support this critical bill that will equip more Oregonians with a potentially lifesaving overdose reversal medication at the same time they obtain an opioid prescription.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to our at-risk communities.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Stevens  
Bridges Collaborative Care Clinic Board Member