



Taking action for basic human needs.



To: House Health Care Committee
From: Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Date: March 30, 2021
RE: Support Oregon House Bill 2376 to Protect At-Risk Patients from Opioid Overdose

Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO), I respectfully request your support for HB 2376.

For nearly three decades, the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) has worked to protect the dignity of all Oregonians through improved public policy in health, housing, and human service providers. HSCO writes you today to voice our strong support for legislation – House Bill 2376 – to protect more Oregonians from the fatal risk of opioid-related overdoses. HSCO cannot positively affect the quality of life for every Oregonian without addressing the opioid epidemic that continues to hurt communities all across our great state. The reality is more than [330 people died](#) of a drug overdose in Oregon between January to June 2020. We must do more to address this ongoing epidemic, and House Bill 2376 would ensure that more Oregonians at-risk of opioid-related overdose have access to potentially life-saving overdose reversal medications.

House Bill 2376 would require Oregon providers who prescribe opioids to simultaneously offer a prescription for naloxone and educate their patients about their risk of an overdose. By doing so, this bill would expand the access, awareness, and availability of opioid overdose reversal medications such as naloxone to save lives.

Passing House Bill 2376 is a significant step we can take right now to address the rise in overdose deaths all across Oregon, because we know that co-prescribing mandates work. In the ten states that have already enacted co-prescribing policies, access to naloxone has [increased](#) dramatically as more health care professionals prescribed naloxone to patients, compared to states that had no legislation in place.

While we recognize that House Bill 2376 may not be a only need in addressing the opioid epidemic, it is certainly one of many tools that must be implemented to further curb overdose fatalities. We respectfully urge you to vote to advance House Bill 2376 to educate and protect more Oregonians from the fatal harms of opioid overdoses.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working alongside you and the entire committee to improve the quality of life for every citizen of Oregon.

HSCO Co-Chairs

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