

February 1, 2022

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

RE: Why I Support House Bill 4081 to Prevent Fatal Overdoses

Dear Chairwoman, Prusak, and members of the committee:

I am writing to you today to urge you to support Oregon House Bill 4081 to help increase access to naloxone and education surrounding the risk of an opioid overdose. With the substantial INCREASE In OVERDOSE DEATHS within our State this Life Saving Opioid Antagonist needs to be available and obtainable to anyone picking up an OPIOID PRESCRIPTION over 90 MME's.

My only child died from a heroin overdose. There was NO NARCAN/NALOXONE in sight! Prescriptions are filled and refilled without educating patients and their families on what to do in case of an OVERDOSE. Then it is too late... the person is DEAD.. GONE..

I fight every day to save the lives of people on OPIOIDS. I work to Support Schools within Oregon Counties to help educate the public on the dangers and impending increase in deaths in our state. We need drastic immediate solutions to counteract this ever-increasing number of deaths NOW! Pharmacists educating and offering a prescription for naloxone/narcan is paramount. This needs to be openly discussed with every single person walking into the pharmacy picking up an OPIOID PERSCRIPTION! Chairwoman Prusak we need this passed this Legislative Session. Lives are at stake. There is NO MORE TIME TO WAIT.

The Oregon legislature currently has the opportunity to combat the rise in fatal overdoses across our state. House Bill 4081 would require that Oregon pharmacists prescribing opioids simultaneously offer a prescription for naloxone and inform patients about their risk of an accidental opioid overdose. **These requirements would help expand access and awareness of opioid overdose reversal medications such as naloxone to prevent fatal overdoses.**

According to a 2020 *American Journal of Public Health* article, “[a]cross 5 states (AZ, FL, RI, VT, VA) with mandated naloxone prescription laws, the total number of naloxone doses dispensed in the 90 days after implementation of the co-prescription mandate grew 255%, from 6,208 to 22,067 compared with the 90 days before adoption of the mandate.”

Several states have already mandated naloxone co-prescription and seen naloxone dispensing grow dramatically in the months following.

With House Bill 4081 in Oregon, legislators can ensure patients and communities have access to tools that can help protect individuals from the harms of opioid overdose.

We thank you for work to support concerned citizens, healthcare professionals, and community leaders in Oregon.

A concerned mom that's son is DEAD!

Gail Strobehn-Simmons

16096 Winston Drive
Oregon City, Oregon 97045
503-804-4514
gmsahs@gmail.com