



A NEW PATH

Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing

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January 28, 2022

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

RE: House Bill 4081 Will Help Oregon Combat the Opioid Crisis

Dear Chairwoman Prusak and members of the committee:

I'm writing to you today to express A New PATH's support of House Bill 4081. Our non-profit advocacy organization is made up of parents, concerned citizens, individuals in recovery, healthcare professionals and community leaders working together to spread understanding about the disease of addiction. House Bill 4081 would serve to educate at-risk patients about the risk of opioid overdose, as well as increase access to opioid overdose reversal medications.

The opioid crisis continues to impact Oregon, and the stigma around addiction prevents those living with substance use disorder (SUD) from accessing the support they need. Policymakers play a key role in helping patients push back against the stigma that exacerbates the opioid crisis. The provisions in House Bill 4081 would expand awareness of and access to naloxone by requiring Oregon pharmacists who prescribe opioids to (1) offer a prescription for naloxone with opioid prescriptions and (2) educate patients about the risk for opioid overdose. These measures are an important step in helping Oregonians during our state's continuing opioid crisis.

Co-prescribing policies require a healthcare provider dispensing opioids to a patient to educate that patient about the risk of overdose and prescribe an overdose reversal medication in certain situations. We've seen the results of co-prescribing policies. When at-risk patients receive naloxone along with their opioid medications, they receive protection from the fatal harms of accidental opioid overdose.

Legislators have the power to help ensure patients and communities receive education about the risk for opioid overdose and have the tools such as opioid overdose reversal medications to protect against the harms of opioid overdose. Please support House Bill 4081 to protect patients in Oregon.

We thank you for supporting concerned citizens, healthcare professionals, and community leaders in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Burns Bergman
Executive Director & Co-Founder, A New PATH