

JANELLE S. BYNUM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 39



COMMUNITIES

Happy Valley
North Clackamas
Damascus
Milwaukie
Oregon City

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 31, 2023

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, I provide this testimony today in support of House Bill 2395 and the -2 amendment.

Time is more pressing than ever to expand harm reduction services in Oregon. Our state has one of the highest rates of drug addiction in the country while ranking near the bottom in terms of access to treatment services. Overdose deaths have increased significantly over past few years, impacting not only individual but their families and entire communities.

Oregon voters, law enforcement, first responders, and health care professionals all agree that harm reduction is the strategy Oregon must employ to combat the current public health crisis. This legislation will help ameliorate some of the social detriments of drug use by: (1) expanding access to life saving antagonists¹ “kits,” (2) decriminalizing testing strips that can detect dangerous substances such as fentanyl, and (3) streamlining overdose data collection and standardize reporting requirements at the state and local level.

Drug addiction is an issue not limited to any singular segment, demographic, or geographic area of Oregon. The issue touches every community in Oregon, with the gravest impacts disproportionally effecting our state’s most vulnerable communities and youth. This legislation will save lives and provide localities the tools and data needed to best respond to local needs.

Colleagues, I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Bynum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Janelle Bynum

¹ “Antagonists” are treatments that can reverse the effects of an overdose. The most common of which is a nasal spray treatment marketed under the name Narcan. House Bill 2395 expands access to these treatments and provides immunity from civil and criminal liability to persons who administer treatment in good faith to persons that appear to be suffering from an overdose.