

HB 2395 -2 ([house bill 2395 dash 2](#))

My name is Dane Zahner and I am the Southern Oregon Prevention and Harm Reduction Manager with HIV Alliance. I have been in my position for a little over five years providing Harm Reduction to rural Oregon. The focus of our prevention services is Coos, Curry, Douglas and Josephine counties. We strive to reduce new HIV, HCV, and overdoses across seven counties.

I am in full support of all the amendments in HB2395-2 and the expansion of Naloxone and paraphernalia law changes. The past 5 years have seen steady increases in overdoses and need for overdose reversal tools has never been greater. While we are hearing about twice as many reported overdose reversals, we continue to hear about more and more deaths in our rural counties.

This past fiscal year of 21/22 we gave out 24,134 doses of Naloxone. We trained 2093 at risk clients, 993 community members and first responders. This resulted in the report of 1,130 overdose reversals. This represents lives saved and lives changed through engagement with Harm Reduction services...

I want to share a story to illustrate how important this is to rural Oregon. While I was working at a local community events community member reached out as I had provided her Naloxone previously. She wanted to thank me for saving her life. The kit she had was used on her recently. She had overdosed on prescription medications. Her gratitude was real and she was thankful her husband realized what was happening. Her story impacted me for many reasons. We focus so much on illicit substances and forget about the many prescription Opioid overdoses.

The second was a grand mother at the Douglas County fair. She reminded me of my own grandmother. I asked if she like a Naloxone training and a kit. I was not expecting her answer as she said yes, I Need some of that Narcan. She mentioned her grandson was an active user of injection opioids and he lived with her. She wanted to save his live if he overdoses. There was no stigma, nonjudgement, only a caring grandmother that realized her grandson had a huge risk. We talked more about if he was using our services and she said yes, he was. She inspired in me, while none of us want our family members to have to deal with an opioid addiction, being prepared and willing to address the reality of what that means for them can save their lives. Her non-judgmental approach was about saving her grandson and making sure he lived until he decided to change.

These two stories are just two of many whose lives we have changed.

This bill addresses gaps I have encountered and should eliminate them, and secure more Naloxone. I have provided training for many thousands of community members this past year. We made a huge impact by supplying Naloxone to at risk, community-based partners, schools, and first responders. There are still gaps such as access, paperwork, lack of funding for key players in saving live such as police departments. That is compassion in it self and it something I tell every client when I ask them to dial 911. That responding officer has an additional dose or two to save your live. Law enforcement officials across our region want to save lives. Schools want to keep students safe so that they can get help. A huge barrier for these organizations was not having a medical provider to sign.

The amendments proposed HB 2395 -2 align with rural community goals, to save lives.

I appreciate your time and hope we you can support amendments in HB 2395-2.

Sincerely Dane Zahner

HIV Alliance and Oregon resident of Douglas County

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