

MAXINE E. DEXTER, MD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 33



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To: Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Date: March 22, 2023

Subject: Support HB 2397 and -1

Chair Nosse and Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson:

For the record, my name is Dr. Maxine Dexter, and I am honored to be the State Representative for House District 33, which includes NW & Downtown Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park. I am grateful for this opportunity today to testify in support of HB 2397 and the -1 amendment, which will establish the Harm Reduction Clearinghouse Project within the Oregon Health Authority and establish a state treasury fund.

As some of you may know, HB 2935, the Opioid Harm Reduction Package the House passed on March 6, originally included a provision to establish a treasury fund for OHA to use to collect dollars for its clearinghouse program to bulk purchase harm reduction tools such as naloxone.

The OHA Clearinghouse was established in 2019 and has been an invaluable tool in Oregon's fight to save lives during the opioid and illicit fentanyl crisis we find ourselves in the middle of.

This bill simply formalizes the clearinghouse as a program of OHA and creates a fund for the agency to better accept dollars in the pursuit of bulk purchasing short-acting opioid antagonists. **HB 2937 and the -1 does not allocate dollars for the clearinghouse or create a funding mechanism.** There are further changes that will need to be made to the language, such as striking Section 3 and clarifying language around how the fund can receive dollars from opioid settlements.

HB 2397 allows OHA to continue providing life-saving short-acting opioid antagonists to the most impacted communities at no to low cost. I urge your support of HB 2397.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxine Dexter", written in a cursive style.

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.
House District 33 (NW & Downtown Portland, Linnton, & Cathedral Park)