



Oregon Commission For Women

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

For the record, my name is Camille Mercier, and I am a Commissioner on the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW).

OCFW serves the people of Oregon to empower and support women through our special roles as policy advisors to Oregon state policymakers and leaders. The OCFW is a catalyst that empowers partnerships between the state government and women in rural and urban areas to ensure success for all women by addressing issues at the policy level. I am writing in support of HB 2395.

In the past two years, I have known parents that have lost their children to fentanyl overdoses, and no satisfactory explanation could answer the question of how this could happen. It has caused me to feel helpless amid the countless deaths, crimes, homelessness, and trauma this drug is causing families. I am not sure there is one solution to this epidemic; however, doing nothing should not be an option.

HB 2395-2 is essential in educating communities about opioid addiction and saving lives by making access to naloxone possible. This bill provides an important aspect of improving the reporting of opioid data, addresses access to treatment, and allows for protections for those reporting opioid use.

I believe many resources and approaches will be required to remedy the opioid drug addiction problem in our communities; HB 2395-2 is moving our communities in the right direction through awareness of the risks of opioid use and access to naloxone, which can be administered to save lives.

I fully support HB 2395-2 and believe this initial approach to the opioid epidemic will help to create safer communities and save lives. I urge the committee to support its passage.

Sincerely,

Camille Mercier

Vice-Chair, Oregon Commission for Women

Oregon Commission for Women

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