

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

For the record, my name is Sang Tzun Phan, or you can call me Sam. I am a Co-Chair for the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). I am writing to you in support of HB 2395-6.

OCAPIA works to implement and establish economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans within the state.

Over the last four years and before my role in OCAPIA, I was a supervisor at Trillium Family Services in their secure in-patient program. Then I moved on to be a Legal Resource Facilitator for Multnomah County. While at Trillium Family Services, I was given the opportunity to learn about many children's experiences with the drug. In addition, I have also seen the intensity of battling addiction through this line of work, and to this day, watching a child go through withdrawals is still one of the more heart-wrenching experiences of my life. This past weekend I learned that a 15-year-old boy I had once worked with, then 12, had gone missing. The last time he ran away, he was found nearly dead due to a Fentanyl overdose. I hope and pray he returns home safely.

HB 2395-6 would continue to allow Oregon to further study the effects of substance abuse in our community and allow first responders, qualified professionals, and educators to distribute and administer short-acting Opioid antagonists in potentially life-or-death situations. Other states like Texas and California have already passed legislation to study the effects of it in their communities and are working to provide more education to prevent it from within. As the Opioid crisis continues to be an issue in our neighborhoods, more and more of our community continues to pass away prematurely. This issue is not limited to Oregon. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other states are working to solve this problem, and HB 2395-A would allow us to continue to play our part as leaders in America in fighting the Opioid crisis.

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Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

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With minimal expenditure, Oregon can provide more life-saving support and resources by studying substance abuse and permitting our community leaders to utilize short-acting Opioid antagonists, like naloxone, in emergencies. That is why I am asking for your support for HB 2395-6.

Sincerely,





Sam Phan

Co-Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



<https://www.oregonadvocacy.org/> 

503.302.9725 

oaco.mail@oregon.gov 

PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217 