

Submitter: Macy Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB2395

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

My name is Macy Patel, and I am here today to speak in support of HB 2395. I am a third-year student at the University of Oregon and I work as a secretary of policy with ASUO. Today I want to highlight the very notable role in the destigmatization of harm reduction and safe drug use.

I learned about Narcan last spring at a distribution event at the UO bi-annual street faire. To this day, I still continue to carry that Narcan I was given that day with me wherever I go. This is where my passion for harm reduction began. With just those five short minutes of training, I now feel prepared to help friends, family, and community members in case of an emergency. This past Fall, I found myself in a group of inspiring, passionate students packing Narcan at this past Fall street faire.

Throughout this past year, I have had various opportunities to engage with my peers in conversations about harm reduction through leading distribution and education events. I would like to share some of these conversations and experiences.

Over the course of the Fall on-campus Narcan education and distribution events, surveys distributed at the event reported 100% support for “reducing campus and community overdoses via the widespread distribution of Narcan.” 90% of survey respondents said they wanted to carry Narcan for community members. Students want to build healthier, safer communities. These distribution events have initiated conversations about Narcan and harm reduction among students.

This bill will save lives. Students like myself see and understand the importance of Narcan and harm reduction in keeping ourselves, our families, friends, and communities safe. Finally, I want to acknowledge the endorsement of house bill 2395 by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon as well as the Oregon Student Association. Students want to be a part of stopping this opioid and fentanyl crisis. Thank you for your time.