

Submitter: Noah Thompson  
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 Noah Thompson, I am a student at the University of Oregon, and I'm submitting testimony in support of HB 2395.

As a sort of straight and narrow student, I never thought that I would be in a situation in which I'd come face to face with an opioid overdose, or need narcan, but the severity of the opioid crisis in the United States today can and will touch everyone's life in a negative way, and harm reduction is necessary.

About a month ago, while walking in downtown Eugene (where I live), I came across a homeless man, overdosing and on the brink of death. The sight was generally quite traumatizing, he was face down in his own vomit, taking a violent breath about once a minute, his skin was a deep purple, and in the long period before I heard him take a breath I wasn't even sure he was alive. My girlfriend called 911 and I held him up for ~5 minutes before the paramedics arrived, so that he could breathe better. The paramedics took him to the ambulance and that's the last I've heard from him, I don't even know his name. The takeaway for me is that the situation is so severe, so pervasive, that it can't be ignored. Harm reduction is absolutely necessary, and narcan should be as available as possible, particularly to college students. It's an honest matter of life and death.