



# A NEW PATH

## Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing

March 25, 2021

House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State House of Representatives  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Advance Oregon House Bill 2376 to Protect Individuals At-Risk of Opioid Overdose**

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

Our organization, A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), as well as our national collaborative campaign, Moms United to End the War on Drugs, are proud to be in support of House Bill 2376. We urge you and your colleagues to advance this bill as soon as possible, to allow more Oregonians who are at-risk of opioid-related overdoses to access potentially life-saving overdose reversal medications.

Our missions are clear: we work to educate the public, media, and decision makers like yourselves about the true nature of the disease of addiction, and advocate for policies that stop this devastating loss of lives and instead give patients the resources needed to recover. One of those critical resources is opioid overdose reversal medications, such as naloxone.

The rise in overdose deaths across our state before and during the COVID-19 pandemic reinforces the urgent need to expand access to potentially lifesaving medications for at-risk patients. In fact, between January to June 2020 alone, [339 people died](#) of a drug overdose in Oregon – a 40 percent increase in overdose deaths from the same time period in 2019. Many of these lives could have been saved if these individuals, or those around them, had access to naloxone.

**House Bill 2376 would expand access, awareness, and availability of naloxone by requiring Oregon providers who prescribe opioids to simultaneously offer a prescription for naloxone and educate their patients about their risk of an overdose.**

This bill represents a significant step we can take right now to combat our state's opioid epidemic, because we already know that co-prescribing laws work. With House Bill 2376, Oregon has the opportunity to join ten other states that have already enacted co-prescribing policies. In those states, access to naloxone has notably [increased](#) as more health care professionals prescribed naloxone to patients, compared to states that had no legislation in place.

Too many lives in Oregon have been lost to the tragic opioid epidemic that continues to ravage through our communities. Thankfully, we have the chance to address the growing number of fatal opioid overdoses in our state by passing House Bill 2376. We must protect more Oregonians from the fatal harms of opioid overdoses by

equipping them with a potentially lifesaving overdose reversal medication at the same time they obtain an opioid prescription. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gretchen Burns Bergman".

Gretchen Burns Bergman

Co-Founder/Executive Director, A New PATH

Lead Organizer, Moms United to End the War on Drugs