

March 26, 2021

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

RE: Support House Bill 2376 to Protect Oregonians At-Risk of Opioid Overdose

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 2376 to ensure more Oregonians at-risk of opioid-related overdose can access potentially life-saving medication.

Our community's addiction crisis is personal for me. Bryant, my youngest older brother, has had a decade-long battle with opioid addiction. Last year, **Bryant almost lost his life due to an opioid overdose**. The only reason why his two sons still have a father is because two doses of naloxone saved his life.

That near-death experience helped my brother realize he needed to turn his life around. He has since entered sobriety, secured housing and employment, and is enrolled at community college.

I know many are not given the same chance at life.

House Bill 2376 could end this preventable injustice. It expands access to 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 – a critical step forward in our state's fight to end the opioid epidemic.

The good news is that we know co-prescribing laws work. In states with co-prescribing laws, access to naloxone has noticeably increased as more health professionals prescribed naloxone to patients, compared to states that had no legislation in place. Oregon has the opportunity to equip patients with naloxone at the same time they receive opioid medications.

The past year has highlighted the importance of health equity – and I strongly believe that House Bill 2376 would help historically underserved populations access these critical opioid overdose reversal medicines.

I urge you to support House Bill 2376. This critical legislation will save lives and ensure more Oregonians can access naloxone alongside their opioid prescription.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

With Love and Resilience,



cameron whitten
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Brown Hope