



Taking action for basic human needs.



To: House Health Care Committee
From: Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Date: February 4, 2022
Re: Support for HB 4081 to Protect At-Risk Patients from Opioid Overdose.

Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO), I respectfully request your support for HB 4081.

For nearly three decades, the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) has worked to protect the dignity of all Oregonians through improved public policy in health, housing, and human service providers. We write to you today to voice our strong support for the passage of House Bill 4081 to protect more Oregonians from the fatal risk of opioid-related overdoses.

We have seen too many lives across the state disrupted and ruined by the opioid epidemic that continues to hurt communities across Oregon. The reality is that an average of [5 Oregonians die every week](#) of a drug overdose in Oregon. It's clear that we must do more to address this ongoing epidemic, and House Bill 4081 would ensure that more Oregonians at-risk of opioid-related overdose have access to potentially life-saving overdose reversal medications.

House Bill 4081 would require Oregon pharmacists who prescribe opioids to simultaneously offer a prescription for naloxone and educate their patients about their risk of an overdose. By doing so, this bill would expand the access, awareness, and availability of opioid overdose reversal medications such as naloxone to potentially save lives.

Passing House Bill 4081 is a significant step that we can take right now to address the rise in opioid overdose deaths because we know that co-prescribing mandates work. In states that have already enacted co-prescribing policies, access to naloxone has [increased](#) dramatically as more health care professionals prescribed naloxone to patients, compared to states that had no legislation in place.

We recognize that House Bill 4081 will not be the silver bullet that will defeat the opioid epidemic, but it is one of many critical tools that must be implemented to further curb overdose fatalities. We urge you to vote to pass House Bill 4081 without any delay so that we can make sure more Oregonians are protected from the fatal harms of opioid overdoses.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working alongside you and the entire committee to improve the quality of life for every citizen of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Alicia Temple and Rachael Wiggins Emory, HSCO Co-Chairs

HSCO Co-Chairs

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