

Submitter: Starr Matsushita

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4081

Patients who are often on high morphine milliequivalent doses of opiate narcotics are constantly flirting with life-ending respiratory depression. They are also disproportionately in lower socioeconomic tiers that often come with limitations in how much they can spend on pharmaceuticals in any given month. It is common practice for me to prescribe anyone on MME >30 with narcan as a safe guard to prevent life-threatening opiate overdose. If patients are unable to get narcan at a price that fits within their budget they may chose to not pick it up and therefore, not have it on hand if they accidentally ingest too much opiate (which can happen with illicit use as well as with prescribed use of opiates). Narcan should automatically be covered/given if someone is receiving high dose opiates.