



Opioid Harm Reduction Package

(In Support of HB 2395 A)

Accidental deaths and hospitalizations stemming from the use of opioids have dramatically increased since 2019¹. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl has emerged as a key driving force behind this tragic increase in morbidity and mortality. We must expeditiously and effectively take action as a state to address this threat to the health and safety of Oregonians.

HB 2395 A seeks to address current barriers to harm reduction efforts to start saving lives as soon as possible. These are important tools that focus on harm reduction and should be seen as part of the treatment continuum. This package is broken down into 3 themes:

1. Access to Opioid Antagonists & On the Ground Prevention

HB 2395 A removes barriers to accessing and distributing safe and effective overdose reversal medication within the community. The bill decriminalizes testing strips and proven harm reduction tools.

2. Understanding & Education

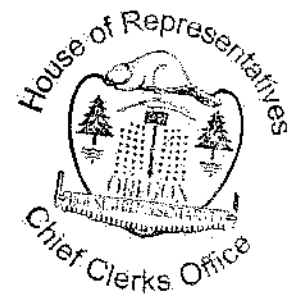
Responding to a crisis requires understanding the problem we are trying to solve. HB 2395 A streamlines cross-county youth overdose reporting to ensure local communities are empowered to act quickly when a youth overdose death tragically occurs in a community.

3. Technical Fixes

HB 2395 A modernizes Oregon's harm reduction statutes by removing the specific mention of the overdose reversal medication "naloxone" with the class of "short acting opioid antagonists." The bill clarifies that school staff are able to administer short acting opioid antagonists to students experiencing overdose and ensures that minors are able to access substance use treatment.

This policy package is informed by professional medical experience as well as conversations with a broad coalition of community stakeholders including clinicians, law enforcement, first responders, harm reduction experts, public health professionals, students, educators, community-based organizations serving people suffering from substance use disorder and family members of people who have died as a result of an accidental overdose.

We, the signed below, urge your support and passage of HB 2395 A.



¹ Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division. Opioids and the Ongoing Drug Overdose Crisis in Oregon: Report to the Legislature. Portland, OR. September 2022. This report fulfills the OHA annual reporting of opiate and opioid overdoses that ORS 432.141 requires