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Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Travis, and members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

Hello! My name is Kayla Krueger, and **I am writing to voice my support of House Bill 2451.**

I am sorry I can't be with you in-person today, but when I found out about this opportunity to emphasize the importance of fentanyl test strips to our very own state legislature, I wanted to do everything in my power to make my voice heard.

The importance of fentanyl test strips cannot be properly put into words: it's a matter of life and death, controlled by the unknown. Fentanyl is an unseen killer; drugs can be unknowingly laced with fentanyl and there is no way of knowing until it is too late.

Products like Narcan reduce harm and have saved many lives, yet it is more reactionary than preventative. In order to properly administer Narcan, you need to recognize the symptoms of an opioid overdose, and then approach the individual and administer the drug (most commonly a nasal spray, sometimes an injection). This is a risky process, and it doesn't guarantee the safety of the victim. By providing fentanyl test strips, that situation could be avoided altogether.

I have had the privilege of serving on the ASUO Student Government Senate for the last two years. Around this time last year I began a journey: I wanted to allow students on campus, as well as the UO Community and beyond, to have access to fentanyl test strips for free. The University of Oregon unfortunately rejected my project proposal due to the state law that prohibits the distribution of testing strips. This was difficult, but it encouraged me to push forward. I've now regained hope because of HB 2451. **There is a dire need to provide students with preventative measures to avoid a potential overdose, and passing HB 2451 would allow colleges and universities an opportunity to save thousands of young lives.**

The University of Oregon serves a wide population of students, faculty, and community members. By offering fentanyl test strips, we would not only save lives, but also reinforce the importance of drug safety. Further, the UO's influence could reach across the country. We have a large out-of-state population, and we would be setting an important precedent for other universities to offer harm-reduction materials. **Each death resulting from a fentanyl overdose is someone's child, someone's friend — a real human being. They should never be treated as a statistic or cautionary tale. However, their legacy should push us to act.**

I urge you Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Travis, and the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee, as well as other state legislators to pass HB 2451.

Kayla Krueger
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University of Oregon