



April 6, 2023

Members of the Senate Committee On Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: In support of HB2395 – Opioid Harm Reduction Policy Package

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee:

At New Narrative, we see firsthand the life-saving value of harm reduction training and preparedness. Empowering our staff to act quickly can mean the difference between life and death for our participants and those seeking services. One of our clinical staff shared a recent incident at her site in which naloxone changed the outcome of a life-threatening situation.

The first thing we heard was a terrible scream for help from a passenger when she got out of the car in our parking lot. I will never forget that scream. I will also never forget how the man who was pulled from the vehicle was blue and experiencing agonal gasps. My lifeguard training reminded me this meant he was dying.

This moment doesn't continue to haunt me because, thanks to New Narrative's engagement in harm reduction measures, my coworker administered naloxone effectively. I saw this person become pink again, stand up, and communicate with emergency services. Had we not had naloxone on hand I am fairly certain this person would not have survived the overdose, despite quick response by emergency services. I believe we would be dealing with a much lengthier trauma response because there would have been a dead body in our parking lot being processed by authorities and any alternative life-saving efforts by staff would have been unsuccessful.

Thanks to naloxone, that person has a second chance at life, and we didn't have to witness a preventable death. My team responded effectively to an emergency and were not traumatized by it; this would not have been possible without naloxone. Passing a bill like this would signal to those in other publicly funded organizations that we respond to overdoses in our community, and we value everyone's life.

New Narrative encourages you to work with your colleagues and do all you can to enact HB2395 to provide life-saving care to those in our community who are in their time of deepest need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julie Ibrahim'.

Julie Ibrahim, CEO