



## Mike Schmidt, District Attorney

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### M E M O R A N D U M

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**TO:** Honorable Sen. Patterson, Chair

**FROM:** Mike Schmidt, Multnomah County District Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Support of HB 2395-A

**DATE:** 4/11/2023

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Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, Members of the Committee. My name is Mike Schmidt and I am excited to be here today to support House Bill 2395-A.

First off, thank you to Representative Dexter, Chair Patterson, Senator Steiner and the other members who have put their names to this important measure designed to reduce harm and save lives of members of our community who are struggling with addiction and substance use disorders.

HB 2395 A is a direct response to the needs of our community. The policies in the measure are designed to meet individuals where they are and standardize harm reduction practices. It encourages the use of life-saving drug. By enabling bulk purchasing and increasing distribution of short-acting opioid antagonists, HB 2395-A will create opportunities to get naloxone into the hands of individuals who are at risk and to people who are in a position to help them.

Most importantly, this measure directly reaches out to young people. As we know, overdoses from fentanyl are having a devastating impact on young adults in Oregon. By allowing administration of naloxone to students who are overdosing, HB 2395-A puts another safety net in place around young people. And allowing minors to access treatment for substance use disorders in their own time, in their own space, and in their own way, reduces barriers young people may face when trying to seek help for substance use.

This measure will not solve the opioid epidemic in our community but it will save lives. I urge your aye vote.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Schmidt", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Schmidt

