



Senate Health Care Committee:

Yes on HB 2395 A

The Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP) requests your support for HB 2395A. The OANP is concerned about the opioid epidemic in Oregon, which has become a public health crisis. According to the [Oregon Health Authority](#), there were 745 unintentional deaths due to opioid overdose in 2021, a 58% increase from the previous year. Synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, are increasingly contributing to these deaths, posing a more potent and dangerous threat than other types of opioids.

The opioid epidemic has affected both urban and rural areas across Oregon. Addressing this crisis requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach, including addressing the root causes of addiction, such as chronic pain and mental health disorders, and improving access to evidence-based treatment and recovery services. Increasing access to short acting opioid antagonists, that can reverse opioid overdose, is also critical.

The OANP supports HB 2395A because it provides essential and necessary access and distribution of short-acting opioid antagonist kits, which can save lives. HB 2395A provides criminal and civil immunity for possessing, storing, delivering, distributing, or administering kits, as well as criminal and civil immunity for the public in administering short acting opioid antagonists in good faith. HB 2395A also expands and removes barriers to accessing kits, increasing access for those who are most likely to be able to administer this life-saving substance, including people at risk for opioid overdose and their family members, as well as law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services providers, trained employees of social services agencies, and trained school personnel. The bill also allows for more convenient access through a standing orders clause and reduces the financial barrier of obtaining kits by establishing a state kit purchasing fund.

HB 2395A will improve opioid overdose tracking for deaths in those under 24 years old and allow minors to more easily obtain outpatient care for a substance use disorder by a mental health care provider.

The OANP urges you to support this important legislation and work towards its swift passage to protect our vulnerable communities and reduce deaths due to opioid overdose.

Sincerely,

Sara Love, ND

OANP Legislative Committee, Chair

Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians

[legislative@oanp.org](mailto:legislative@oanp.org)