

Date:	April 24, 2023
To:	Senate Health Care Committee
From:	Parasa Chanramy, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
Subject:	Testimony in Support of House Bill 2395A

Good Afternoon, Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I'm Parasa Chanramy with the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators. Here to speak in support of House Bill 2395-A.

Our organization represents over 2,800 administrators across Oregon who serve in principalships, central office administration, and the superintendency.

During the fall of 2022, our team traveled and met with administrators from around the state. One of the many issues that our members raised with us was a growing concern with the increasing availability of opioids and their impacts on local communities.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, approximately 20 Oregonians die of drug overdose each week. Over half of these deaths involve synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Right now, fake opioid pills with fentanyl added to them are all over Oregon. These fake pills are extremely dangerous and are deceptively being sold as legitimate prescriptions. A single pill can cause overdose.

Sections 10 through 14 in HB 2395A would create Good Samaritan provisions for individuals (school administrators, teachers, or other school employees) who provide medications like naloxone to someone they suspect has overdosed on opioids in schools.

We believe that educators and staff in a school setting, or at a school-sponsored event, should be able to administer an anti-overdose medication without hesitation, and without concern for further prosecution or legal liability. We also support the language in the latest version of the bill that affords the same legal protections to the school district and school board from lawsuits and legal liabilities.

Again, we support the bill and urge you to vote yes. We believe that this legislation, along with



on-going work around prevention, will provide our schools and staff the tools to intervene and help save lives.

## **Recommended resources:**

- <u>Fentanyl and Opioid Response Toolkit for Schools</u> (Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education, includes example district policies)
- <u>Guidance for Opioid and Naloxone School and Staff Training</u> (Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education)