

Statement in Support of SB25-164

Amanda Jichlinski. MD, FAAP

April 8, 2005

My name is Dr. Amanda Jichlinski. I am writing in support of SB25-164: Opioid Antagonist Availability & State Board of Health. I am a pediatrician who serves as the medical director overseeing seven school-based health centers in Colorado.

In my experience working alongside schools and school districts, I have already seen multiple districts begin the process of stocking naloxone and training school personnel on administration. Their efforts have been vital as preventable overdose deaths continue to occur among school-aged children and adolescents in Colorado and throughout the United States.

Last year, prior to schools carrying naloxone, a student at one of the schools that we serve was saved by the timely administration of naloxone. A police officer happened to be at the school for an unrelated issue, saw the student collapse, and had naloxone on hand that revived the student. This event helped illustrate that having naloxone available quickly and on site can help save lives.

Through our work in schools, we found that naloxone can be adequately stocked in schools and that staff can be trained on naloxone administration. Many districts have had success with programs to have naloxone readily available in schools and I encourage the state of Colorado to continue to support schools so that naloxone can be readily available.

Given the continued threat that fentanyl and other opioids pose to youth in Colorado, I strongly encourage you to vote in support of SB25-164.

Testimony in Support of SB25-164
Opioid Antagonist Availability & State Board of Health
Michelle Shiffman MD, FAAP
April 2, 2025

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Michelle Shiffman and I am a pediatrician in Colorado and member of the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 25-164, which encourages expert counsel when creating policies for opioid antagonist policies and helps broaden access to and encourage the use of these life saving medications when needed for an opioid-related drug overdose event. I urge you to vote “yes” on this essential legislation.

In my practice as a pediatrician I have seen the devastating impact of opioids many times and will never forget the faces of these patients and families as they grieve the loss of loved ones. I have taken care of a toddler who accidentally took a pill they found on the floor, and a teenager who passed away in the Intensive Care Unit after taking what they thought was an adderall to help them study for a test and instead suffered the devastating effect of a fentanyl laced pill.

Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and is now present in many counterfeit medications. Youth are unknowingly consuming lethal doses- whether at home, in their communities, or at school. We need urgent, widespread access to opioid antagonists like naloxone to save lives.

SB25-164 would include many essential steps to address this crisis. It would help ensure that at schools Naloxone was available along with AED cabinets on buses and in classrooms making sure that life saving medication is accessible where it is needed most. It helps eliminate barriers to delivering this life saving medication when every second matters by allowing anyone to administer the medication and it expands access to these medications ensuring its availability in schools, communities and other high-risk settings.

Naloxone is safe, easy to use and effective. It should be as readily available as an AED because opioid overdose, like cardiac arrest, is a life threatening emergency. SB25-124 removes barriers to access and empowers schools and communities to save lives. I urge you to support this bill to protect Colorado’s youth from preventable opioid deaths.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Michelle Shiffman MD, FAAP