

House Education

02/08/2024 01:30 PM

HB24-1003 Opiate Antagonists & Detection Products in Schools

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Emilia Majewski For themselves	<p>I am writing to you urgently, urging your support for House Bill 24-1003, with a critical emphasis on student autonomy regarding Naloxone training and implementation. It is paramount that students have the right to choose to undergo training to administer and carry Naloxone, empowering them to be advocates and first responders in opioid-related emergencies when they feel ready to take on this responsibility.</p> <p>House Bill 24-1003 addresses the pressing issue of opiate overdoses among students in Colorado, and its proactive provisions, including allowing schools and school buses to maintain a supply of opiate antagonists, represent significant strides towards creating a safer educational environment. While the bill is a crucial step in the right direction, I urge you to consider the importance of extending Naloxone training rights to students.</p> <p>The tragic loss experienced by students in Durango in 2021 underscores the gravity of the opioid crisis. Students, having faced the devastating loss of a classmate, are advocating for their right to carry and administer Naloxone on school grounds. Granting students the autonomy to decide when they are ready for this responsibility is crucial in fostering a culture of safety and preparedness. I have worked extensively with students at Animas and Durango High School they have done tremendous work in trying to advocate and pass local policies, they have been the ones to lead Naloxone education and promotion nights in order to educate adults in their lives.</p> <p>Students, as stakeholders in their own well-being, should be active participants in harm reduction efforts. By providing them with the choice to receive Naloxone training, we not only empower them to protect themselves but also create a network of trained individuals within the student body. This approach aligns with the broader goal of cultivating a community that is vigilant and responsive to the opioid crisis.</p>



February 2nd, 2024

Representative B. McLachlan, and Representative Young,

My name is Coreen Johnson and I represent the grassroots, non-profit organization, [Young People in Recovery](#) (YPR). YPR envisions a world where all people have access to the resources they need to thrive in recovery from drugs and alcohol. YPR is in full support of HB24-1003 Opiate Antagonists and Detection Products in Schools.

Youth and young adults are disproportionately affected in the current opioid epidemic. Drug overdoses are now the number-one cause of accidental death in the U.S., with more than 6 out of 10 young adult deaths having involved some form of opioid use. This crisis is driven predominantly by the drug, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that can be up to 50 times stronger than heroin. The presence of fentanyl has skyrocketed in recent years and has been found in powders, including heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA, and pressed pills throughout the county. According to the [CDC](#), there has been an astonishing death rate increase of 109% between 2019 and 2021 in youth aged 14-18. In 2022 alone, there have been 29 fentanyl-related deaths involving Coloradan children aged 10-18 in, as reported by the State.

These numbers are unacceptable and only continue to increase due, in part, to limited availability of life saving tools such as Narcan. This is why it is imperative that you vote yes on HB24-1003 and join us in our movement to Demand Narcan to Protect Students from Opioids! Naloxone (brand name: Narcan) is a safe and effective nasal spray that can reverse opioid overdose and prevent death if administered early. Despite the existence of this amazing tool to reduce substance-related deaths, most state laws don't require Narcan to be made available in places like high schools, colleges, or libraries to help keep students safe.

Just like fire extinguishers and defibrillators (commonly seen in most schools and other public places), Narcan is also a tool that can easily save lives. However, life saving measures can only be made possible if people have access to the tools. I ask that you please join Young People in Recovery as we demand that public places serving youth and young adults be required to have Narcan available to help keep our kids alive!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Coreen Johnson
Coreen Johnson
Senior Project Coordinator

Testimony for HB24-1003 Opiate Antagonists & Detection Products in Schools

Subject: Urgent Need for Naloxone Training for School Staff, Including Bus Drivers, in Colorado

Date: 2/8/2024

Dear Members of the Colorado Legislation,

I am writing to you as a concerned advocate along as a Public Health Professional for the safety and well-being of students, particularly in the rural communities of Southwest Colorado (La Plata, Montezuma, and Archuleta Counties), I also am advocating for the community members in all of the Western Slope. It is my sincere hope that you consider the urgent need for comprehensive training in the administration of Naloxone for all school staff, including bus drivers.

In Durango, both Public and Charter Schools have seen a groundswell of support from students who, in 2022-2023, tirelessly advocated for a change in school policy to allow students the choice to carry Naloxone on school grounds. The impetus for this advocacy was a tragic loss in 2021, where students faced the heart-wrenching experience of losing a classmate and close friend. Rather than being passive witnesses to such tragedies, these students are eager to be advocates and sources of support for their peers. They are asking for autonomy to learn how to be safe and supportive, extending this right to school staff and, crucially, to school bus drivers.

School buses, as per school policy and handbooks, are considered school property. Therefore, bus drivers should be regarded as school staff, and they too should undergo the same training as other staff to administer Naloxone. In these crucial moments, when time is of the essence, having well-trained individuals on school buses can make a significant difference in the outcomes of opioid-related crises.

Naloxone training should be an integral part of school staff training, alongside CPR and first aid, to ensure a comprehensive approach to student safety. This sentiment holds true not only for Durango but also for the rural communities in Pine River Valley, Archuleta County, Montezuma County, and San Juan County. These areas often face challenges such as limited phone service, medical support, and access to harm reduction resources.

Rural school buses are vital lifelines for students, serving as a means of transportation for varying grade levels (K-12), often with long travel times. In these close-knit communities, where the opioid crisis is worsening year by year, the inclusion of Naloxone in school staff training becomes paramount. The close proximity to sources of opioids, coupled with the influence of social media and word of mouth in small towns, makes these communities particularly vulnerable.

It is essential to recognize that school buses in rural areas are, in fact, school premises. Bus drivers, as school staff, play a crucial role in overseeing the safety and well-being of students

during their commutes. In situations where 911 may not be readily accessible, empowering bus drivers to administer Naloxone can be a critical intervention that saves lives.

I implore you to consider the implementation of a statewide policy mandating Naloxone training for all school staff, including bus drivers. This policy would not only address the concerns of rural communities but would also provide a unified approach to student safety in both rural and urban settings.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Your support in implementing such a policy will undoubtedly have a positive and lifesaving impact on the students of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Emilia Majewski
In The Weeds
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La Plata County Community Member and Advocate
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	<p>As you consider House Bill 24-1003, please recognize the profound impact of including students in Naloxone training initiatives. Empowering students with the knowledge and tools to respond to opioid emergencies not only saves lives but also contributes to a culture of compassion, understanding, and proactive engagement.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Your support in championing student autonomy in Naloxone training will undoubtedly contribute to a safer and more resilient environment for all Colorado students.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: EDUCATION & SCHOOL FINANCE COMMITTEE RE: HB24-1003 - OPIATE ANTAGONISTS AND DETECTION PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS FROM: JEANY RUSH COLORADO SPRINGS VOTE: A STRONG NO ON THIS BILL DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS: AS A CONSTITUENT OF OUR STATE, I AM FIRST PRINTING SOME UNDERSTANDING I HAVE FOUND ON THIS SUBJECT: Narcotic antagonists are a classification of drugs which block the euphoric (and all other) effects of opiates. Naltrexone is the most promising narcotic antagonist based on ability to produce blockade, length of duration, and relative absence of side effects." There are partial agonists and opioid agonist/antagonist drugs which, as their name suggests, have intermediate effects. All opioids share the side effects of respiratory depression, cough suppression, reduced intestinal motility, nausea, vomiting and urinary retention." Recently even the administration of ketamine into people in a crime situation, have even died. Too much can go wrong when schools, and others attempt to administer medical protocols. It is criminal for schools to be as involved in any of this, as it is that we even give one person the bioweapon pathogenic false shots, which are killing millions world wide. It is time we stuck to academic issues in schools. These issues, are overreaches, and surely violate our constitutional rights on many levels. Please stop putting up so many illegal bills as it is harming all of our futures! Enraged grandparent here. Thanks you for your considerations here!</p>