

3/18/25

[submitted electronically via: [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)]

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

Representative Susan R. Donovan, Chair

Representative Joshua J. Giraldo, First Vice Chair

Representative Brandon C. Potter, Second Vice Chair

State House

82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5595 (McGaw) –RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE ACT OF 2016

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

17 March 2025

**Re: SUPPORT of House Bill 5595: THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE ACT OF 2016**

My name is Madison Hartling and I am a sixth and final year Doctor of Pharmacy student at The University of Rhode Island. I am writing today to express my sincere support for House Bill 5595: THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2016 (Require that every institution of higher education provide training in the administration of opioid antagonists to every staff member on the institution's campus.)

The implementation of this bill would greatly increase safety across Rhode Island's campuses. According to the 2023 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) survey, nearly two in five adults aged 18 to 25 engage in any illicit drug use.<sup>1</sup> More than three percent (3%) of all people in that age range report misuse of prescription opioids and use of unregulated opioids like fentanyl. College is often the first time many young adults have full autonomy over their activities and schedules. This may also be the first time they are introduced to illicit substances and alcohol, making safer use of these substances much more difficult.

Naloxone nasal spray is remarkably safe and easy to use once properly trained.<sup>2</sup> Naloxone saves lives.<sup>3</sup> As a student during my time at The University of Rhode Island, I made a point to always carry naloxone on my person. When attending parties or bars where illicit drugs may be present, I always had at least two (2) naloxone nasal sprays with me. While I consider myself lucky enough to never have used naloxone, I have multiple friends who have been in situations where they did use it.

Training resident advisors (RAs) and housing staff on naloxone use increases safety for everyone. RAs are trusted peers among college students who live in college housing, and are the most accessible, since they live literally down the hall or next door to them. They are the person an eighteen year old in crisis will call for help. By equipping RAs and other housing staff with naloxone, you are allowing the first person on the scene to be the one who administers a life saving medication. I urge you to vote in favor of senate bill #464 and help RAs protect those who trust them most

Sincerely,

Madison Hartling

University of Rhode Island PharmD 2025