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**Testimony of Josh Rosenthal, Chair, Council to Prevent Opioid Dependence (CTPOD)**  
**In Favor of S3259**

I'm Josh Rosenthal, Chair of the Council to Prevent Opioid Dependence, an organization dedicated to preventing opioid dependence and addiction in Rhode Island. I'm submitting written testimony in favor of S3259. Let me begin thanking Chair Murray for introducing this legislation that contains important prevention measures.

I lost my son Nathan to a fentanyl overdose. I am dedicated to making sure other families don't have to go through what my family went through. That is why we must re-double our efforts to stop people from going down the road that leads to dependence and addiction—a road that often begins with an opioid pain reliever prescription.

This legislation provides important prevention safeguards. It updates the state's pill limits requirements on initial opioid pain killer prescription, putting in place a 7-day limit. This is essential to preventing opioid dependence because research shows that dependency begins to set in for some patients in as little as 5 days.

It also requires a non-opioid pain treatment first approach, which conforms to current best medical practice. Blind pain studies show that for acute pain a combination of ibuprofen (Motrin) acetaminophen (Tylenol) is often all that is needed. In fact, a Rutgers Health study found that this combination is more effective at controlling acute pain following wisdom teeth extraction than opioid medication. Now, there are also non-opioid prescription pain medications on the market.

S3259 also reaffirms the state's requirement for a conversation between medical prescriber and patient (and parent in the case of minors) before an opioid painkiller is issued to warn about the risks of addiction and discuss nonopioid alternatives.

. I urge the Health Committee to support S3259 and to pass it out of Committee. A near identical version of this legislation has already passed the House. With expeditious movement, this legislation can pass this year, preventing ruined lives and senseless deaths.