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**Senate Bill 137**  
**House Health Committee Proponent Testimony**  
**November 5, 2025**

Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 137 on behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP), which represents over 1,500 emergency physicians across the state. My name is Dr. Ryan Squier, I am a past President of Ohio ACEP and remain very involved at the state and national level.

I became an emergency physician to serve and to heal. As a physician who sees the devastation of opiate abuse all too frequently, I am here to support this important legislation to bolster another tool to combat opioid addiction and save lives. Emergency physicians early on found ourselves on the front lines of the opiate epidemic. This is why our organization is championing the [Ohio Naloxone Project](#)'s efforts to get more naloxone kits in the hands of at-risk patients.

Senate Bill 137 makes important strides in preventing overdose deaths. The bill provides that at the time of a patient's discharge from a hospital's emergency department, the hospital will provide to the patient an overdose reversal drug if the patient presented to the emergency department with one or more symptoms of an opioid overdose, opioid use disorder, or other adverse event related to opioid use. While many hospitals are already providing at risk patients with Naloxone, most are doing so with funds provided through grants. SB 137 will ensure this practice is sustained across the state and make this the standard of practice.

Naloxone distribution and education represent a key strategy in Ohio's response to the opioid crisis, to reduce opioid overdose deaths by bringing tools to individuals and communities, including effective overdose reversal medications and the knowledge and skills required to use them. However, we unfortunately know that most prescriptions written for naloxone go unfilled. Placing naloxone in the hands of at-risk patients upon discharge removes the current barriers to treatment and improves chances of seeking recovery.

Ohio ACEP thanks Senators Johnson for introducing this legislation, and we thank the committee for their thoughtful consideration of this bill.

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