



Senate Bill 137
Senate Health Committee Proponent Testimony
June 4, 2025

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate 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. Michael McCrea, I am a past President of Ohio ACEP and remain very involved at the state and national level.

This may sound like make believe, but my practice was changed forever on Christmas Eve of 2015. That evening, a 22 year old male was brought in in cardiac arrest from an opioid overdose. Despite our efforts, he died. His mother came to the ED and I had to tell her that her son had died. She couldn't believe it, that he had come home and was going to rehab the day after Christmas. She had left the house to try and find him something for Christmas because she was so proud of him for finally getting help. In that short time she was gone, he overdosed when old friends came over. She did not have naloxone. It was this case that led me to championing naloxone kits at our hospital and to become involved with the [Ohio Naloxone Project](#).

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 represents 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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