

To: Members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, VP, Advocacy, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: June 4, 2025

Re: SB 137

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we write today in support of Senate Bill 137. This legislation strengthens Ohio's laws related to distribution of overdose reversal drugs.

The distribution of overdose reversal drugs such as Naloxone, and education/awareness about their use, are key components in Ohio's strategic response to combat opioid abuse in our communities. In order to reduce opioid overdose deaths, it is important that we make valuable tools available to individuals and communities, including effective overdose reversal medications and the knowledge and skills required to use them. Ohio has made progress in the distribution of and education about naloxone over the past several years, but more can always be done.

Hospitals frequently care for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) or patients who are at risk for opioid overdose. These locations represent an ideal opportunity for naloxone distribution, as studies have shown more than half of patients who died of overdose were seen in an ED in the preceding three months, and more than half of patients dying of overdose suffered from a previous nonfatal overdose. SB 137 is a unique opportunity to help Ohioans be better equipped to prevent overdose and hopefully save lives through ensuring at risk patients are discharged with overdose reversal drugs.

Thank you for your consideration of our remarks. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us should you have any questions.