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TO: Members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
FROM: Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association
DATE: June 9, 2020
SUBJECT: Substitute House Bill 341 Proponent Testimony

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association would like to voice its support for the amendment to House Bill 341 from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy that would expand access to naloxone in public locations. The changes made in this language would 1) remove requirement for terminal distributor license to personally furnish naloxone, 2) expand who may authorize a protocol for personally furnishing or emergency administration, 3) expand naloxone access in public locations, 4) allow rules to be developed for remote storage of naloxone for automated distribution or emergency administration, and 5) provide civil immunity for citizens who administer naloxone.

As fire chiefs, we have worked alongside our partners in other public service agencies to help our communities address the issue of opioid overdose. There are many fire departments that have taken proactive steps help their communities, and in doing that work OFCA has identified some innovative policies that we believe, if enacted, would have a tremendously positive impact for those struggling with addiction.

One of these policies that OFCA has advocated for is increasing the access of naloxone in public spaces, such as a method similar to how AED devices have been furnished or placing the medication in a vending machine. These are precisely the recommendations that the Board of Pharmacy has incorporated into their amendment for House Bill 341.

Many departments already serve as Terminal Distributor of Danger Drugs (TDDD) and work closely with the Board of Pharmacy to meet the requirements and best practices to serve in such a capacity. Therefore, OFCA welcomes the opportunity to oversee the placement, education, response and general upkeep of the public naloxone location that is required under the contents of this proposal.

OFCA is also supportive of the provision that would exempt any facility that possess naloxone – either to personally furnish or administer – from needing to obtain a TDDD licensure. This would apply to a facility such as a Project DAWN site, or similar organization, with which Ohio fire departments collaborate with often in order to achieve our goal of reducing opioid overdoses and deaths.



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Ultimately, our organization strongly supports the proposals of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy and are grateful for their leadership and collaboration to tackle the issue that is plaguing so many neighborhoods. Fire Chiefs across Ohio stand ready to help our communities overcome the impact of the opioid epidemic, and the additions to House Bill 341 will bring us all closer to realizing that goal.

OFCA is grateful for your consideration and urge support of Substitute House Bill 341.