



2012 West 25th Street, 6th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216 241 3400
www.adamhsc.org

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Dave Burke
Chair, Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: SUPPORT Proposed Naloxone Amendment for HB 341

Dear Senator Burke:

Cuyahoga County has been hit particularly hard by the opioid epidemic. First by the transition of use from prescriptions to heroin and now by fentanyl and carfentanil being found in multiple drugs, including heroin and cocaine. Individuals who are suffering from a substance use disorder may have only minutes for overdose reversal related to opioids. Providing and having access to the drug naloxone can be the deciding factor between life and death. The proposed amended language for HB 341 will further reduce the barriers to accessing naloxone by exempting facilities from the TDDD licensure requirement and by increasing the availability of naloxone in public spaces.

Readily available naloxone will save lives and allow persons struggling with substance use disorders the opportunity to be revived and receive treatment. This amended language will provide the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County and its community partners the opportunity to place naloxone distribution units (NaloxBoxes) in public spaces and areas of our community hardest hit by the evolving opioid epidemic. The ADAMHS Board, in partnership with the Medical Examiner's Office, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and MetroHealth's Office of Opioid Safety (Project DAWN) have been working on a community plan for naloxone distribution units. The amended language in this legislation will allow us to move forward with this plan and meet the needs in our community by effectively furnishing naloxone. Ultimately, this will save the lives of individuals affected by substance use disorders and provide more avenues to treatment and recovery.

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County is charged by State ordinance to coordinate the local, public mental health and addiction treatment and recovery support system in Cuyahoga County. As such, the ADAMHS Board plans, funds and monitors programs that are person-centered and meet the needs of the residents of Cuyahoga County. The ADAMHS Board also serves as a community collaborator to address issues concerning mental health and substance use disorders such as the opioid epidemic.

For these reasons, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County supports the proposed naloxone amendment for House Bill 341. I hope you will continue prioritizing mental health and addiction treatment by considering this language change.

Sincerely,

Scott S. Osiecki
Chief Executive Officer
ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County