

June 6, 2020

Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Ohio Board of Pharmacy

RE: Amendments to Ohio HB 341 expanding access to Naloxone

Dear Senators and Pharmacy Board:

Caracole positively changes lives in the fight against HIV/AIDS through prevention, housing and care. Caracole provides services in Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Eastern Indiana. As an organization dedicated to the treatment and ultimately ending HIV, we are acutely aware of the importance of harm reduction services in our community. I am writing in support of changes that would improve access to Naloxone as a life-saving emergency medication.

Thank you for considering amendments that will remove barriers and increase access to Naloxone. Caracole works with licensed organizations to distribute Naloxone through all our programs, and especially through our syringe service program and our street outreach program providing harm reduction supplies to people who use drugs. We know, through countless experiences, that naloxone saves lives. We also know that the key to all harm reduction and prevention is low barrier, simplified access without stigma or shame throughout the community.

Your committee is considering measures to make Naloxone more accessible by reducing Terminal Distributor of Dangerous Drugs (TDD) licensure requirements, enabling more professionals to develop protocols for Naloxone distribution. These changes would greatly assist in our work and we wholly support these amendments.

We are also excited that the amendment supports enabling automated and remote distribution of Naloxone. Our research has shown exciting progress in other states and countries where “vending machine” models are used to distribute harm reduction supplies. Caracole hopes to set up such a system in Cincinnati and this legislation would further support the progress of this work.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to our street outreach and housing staff about the importance of Naloxone in our community, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Linda Seiter

Linda Seiter, Executive Director
Caracole, Inc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Seiter

PRESIDENT

Jim Goetz

VICE PRESIDENT

Don Clowe

SECRETARY

Wendy Carpenter

TREASURER

Rick Kay

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

B. Keith Blevins-Roberts

Michael Butler

Esly S. Caldwell, MD

Kevin T. Celarek

Lee Ann Conard

Jennifer Cox

Christopher Deabler

Heric Flores

John R. Gillespie

Bryan Goodpaster

Sean J. Guilfoile

Mark Haggard

Reginald Harris

Annie Lewis

Keith Luckett, MD

Rayna N. Moore

Anar Patel, MD

Stephen J. Peterson

Jean Sepate

Jay Shatz

Tracy Agyemang Vroom

PAST PRESIDENTS

Melissa Lanier

Richard L. Buchanan

Ann Mootz

Mary Ellen Heintz

Kathleen Byrne

Linda Seiter

John R. Gillespie

Kathleen E. Cox

James C. Jackson

Rick Kay

Bernard L. McKay

Stephen J. Peterson