I am writing to ask that the Senate Health Committee further reduces barriers to naloxone access as proposed in HB 341.

I began working with people who use drugs since 2015, just as fentanyl began to makes its way into the heroin supply. In these last few years I have seen countless people die from fentanyl/fentanyl analog poisoning. Conversely, I have seen countless people who survived because of naloxone access.

The unofficial first responders to overdoses are the people who use drugs and getting naloxone into their hands with as few barriers as possible is absolutely vital. We also must remember that people that are at risk of an overdose are members of our community and as such, access to naloxone needs to be as barrier free as possible for the service entities that serve our community.

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Billy Golden