

SB 296 Written Proponent Testimony April 5, 2022 Cameron McNamee – State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide follow-up proponent testimony on SB 296. My name is Cameron McNamee, and I am the Director of Policy and Communications for the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy.

As stated in our previous testimony, the Board strongly supports SB 296 and its ability to expand tools for local communities to address Ohio's drug overdose epidemic. To demonstrate the impact this will have on local communities, I have attached an additional 9 letters of support from organizations and individuals throughout Ohio to this testimony. These letters supplement the 66 letters of support provided in my testimony on March 23, 2022.





HEALTHY PEOPLE. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

March 31, 2022

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Integrated Services for Behavioral Health to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Making it possible for individuals to check their drugs for the presence of fentanyl using fentanyl test strips is vital due to Ohio's increasingly lethal drug supply. For example, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines.ⁱ Additionally, counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye.ⁱⁱ Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.

Fentanyl test strips have been shown to facilitate behavior change to protect against overdose. According to a 2018 John Hopkins Study of active drug users, 70% of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior. Another study, conducted out of North Carolina, concluded that individuals with a positive fentanyl test strip test result were five times more likely to report changes in drug use behavior compared to those with a negative result.

Under current law, paraphernalia is defined to include items used to test drugs, including fentanyl test strips. This leaves many Ohio communities and organizations fearful of potential criminal and civil penalties for distributing these life-saving tools. Senate Bill 296 would align Ohio with other states such as Arizona, which updated its state law in 2021 to remove fentanyl test strips from the definition of drug paraphernalia.







HEALTHY PEOPLE. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, Senate Bill 296 would also remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose, including those involving fentanyl. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone to all Ohioans.

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health serves 14 counties in Southeastern Ohio. Many of our counties are consistently named in the top 10 of the state for overdose fatality each year. Our community behavioral health and substance use teams work diligently to provide education about substances and encourage behaviors that promote safer substance use and the reduction of substance use. Their daily endeavors reduce the harmful impacts that drugs like fentanyl have on individuals, families and communities. By legalizing test strips and deregulating Naloxone, it is my belief that many lives will be saved from a contaminated drug supply.

On behalf of Integrated Services for Behavioral Health we strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives.

Sincerely,

Natashia Rapp LICDC-CS

Manager of Harm Reduction Programming and Substance Use Services

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health

740-248-8255

nrapp(a)isbh.org

Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-preventionprogram/media/2020+ohio+drug+overdose+report

Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center Warns of Dangerous Counterfeit Prescription Tablets Found in Ohio. https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/news-and-events/allnews/onic-120321

if Fentanyl Overdose Reduction Checking Analysis Study. https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/websitemedia/resources/Fentanyl_Executive_Summary_032018.pdf

Fentanyl test strips as an opioid overdose prevention strategy: Findings from a syringe services program in the Southeastern United States. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395918302135

Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program 55 W Washington Street Nelsonville, OH 45764 P: (740) 591-4266 E: info@saopseoh.org



The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Making it possible for individuals to check their drugs for the presence of fentanyl using fentanyl test strips is vital due to Ohio's increasingly lethal drug supply. For example, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines.¹ Additionally, counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye.² Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.

Fentanyl test strips have been shown to facilitate behavior change to protect against overdose. According to a 2018 John Hopkins Study of active drug users, 70% of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior.³ Another study, conducted out of North Carolina, concluded that individuals with a positive fentanyl test strip test result were five times more likely to report changes in drug use behavior compared to those with a negative result.⁴

Under current law, paraphernalia is defined to include items used to test drugs, including fentanyl test strips. This leaves many Ohio communities and organizations fearful of potential criminal and civil penalties for distributing these life-saving tools. Senate Bill 296 would align Ohio with

https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/website-media/resources/Fentanyl Executive Summary 032018.pdf

¹ Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings.

https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/media/2020+ohio+drug+overdose+report

² Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center Warns of Dangerous Counterfeit Prescription Tablets Found in Ohio. https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/news-and-events/all-news/onic-120321

³ Fentanyl Overdose Reduction Checking Analysis Study.

⁴ Fentanyl test strips as an opioid overdose prevention strategy: Findings from a syringe services program in the Southeastern United States. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395918302135

Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program 55 W Washington Street Nelsonville, OH 45764 P: (740) 591-4266 E: info@saopseoh.org



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Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, Senate Bill 296 would also remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose, including those involving fentanyl. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone to all Ohioans.

As an organization that provides services to individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking and stalking in southeast Ohio we see firsthand how trauma and substance use are closely related. Survivors of trauma in southeast Ohio have limited access to transportation, mental health resources, affordable housing, and especially substance use recovery services. Trying to find a treatment facility for substance use that has space available is one of the most difficult tasks that we face when trying to advocate on behalf of survivors. This harmful lack of recovery resources in combination with the barriers that survivors face when attempting to access life-saving resources like Naloxone and fentanyl test strips is a devastating reality that no one should face.

On behalf of the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program, we strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

E1BD56724776472...

René Redd Residential Services Supervisor Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program (740) 331-9171 rene@saopseoh.org



1115 Gilman Avenue • Marietta, Ohio 45750 • Phone (740) 374.6990 • Fax (740) 374-6927 • www.wcbhb.org

David K. Browne, C.P.A.

Executive Director

davidkbrowne@wcbhb.org

Shaeleigh Sprigg, BA Compliance Director shaesprigg@wcbhb.org

Tara Plaugher, coca Recovery Advocate tolaugher@wcbhb.org

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of **the Washington County Behavioral Health Board**, to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Making it possible for individuals to check their drugs for the presence of fentanyl using fentanyl test strips is vital due to Ohio's increasingly lethal drug supply. For example, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines.ⁱ Additionally, counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye.ⁱⁱ Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.

Fentanyl test strips have been shown to facilitate behavior change to protect against overdose. According to a 2018 John Hopkins Study of active drug users, 70% of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior. Another study, conducted out of North Carolina, concluded that individuals with a positive fentanyl test strip test result were five times more likely to report changes in drug use behavior compared to those with a negative result.

Under current law, paraphernalia is defined to include items used to test drugs, including fentanyl test strips. This leaves many Ohio communities and organizations fearful of potential criminal and civil penalties for distributing these life-saving tools. Senate Bill 296 would align Ohio with other states such as Arizona, which updated its state law in 2021 to remove fentanyl test strips from the definition of drug paraphernalia.

Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, Senate Bill 296 would also remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose, including those involving fentanyl. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone to all Ohioans.



On behalf of **Washington County Behavioral Health Board**, we strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives.

Sincerely,

David K. Browne, Executive Director

Washington County Behavioral Health Board

¹ Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/media/2020+ohio+drug+overdose+report

ii Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center Warns of Dangerous Counterfeit Prescription Tablets Found in Ohio. https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/news-and-events/all-news/onic-120321

iii Fentanyl Overdose Reduction Checking Analysis Study. https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/website-media/resources/Fentanyl Executive Summary 032018.pdf

^{TV} Fentanyl test strips as an opioid overdose prevention strategy: Findings from a syringe services program in the Southeastern United States, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395918302135



The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman

Senate Building

1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the OhioCAN/Newark Homeless Outreach to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Making it possible for individuals to check their drugs for the presence of fentanyl using fentanyl test strips is vital due to Ohio's increasingly lethal drug supply. For example, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines. Additionally, counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye. Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.

Fentanyl test strips have been shown to facilitate behavior change to protect against overdose. According to a 2018 John Hopkins Study of active drug users, 70% of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior. Another study, conducted out of North Carolina, concluded that individuals with a positive fentanyl test strip test result were five times more likely to report changes in drug use behavior compared to those with a negative result.

Under current law, paraphernalia is defined to include items used to test drugs, including fentanyl test strips. This leaves many Ohio communities and organizations fearful of potential

criminal and civil penalties for distributing these life-saving tools. Senate Bill 296 would align Ohio with other states such as Arizona, which updated its state law in 2021 to remove fentanyl test strips from the definition of drug paraphernalia.

Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, Senate Bill 296 would also remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose, including those involving fentanyl. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone to all Ohioans.

Newark Homeless Outreach, a project of OhioCAN. strives to embrace, educate, and empower those whose lives have been impacted by homelessness, poverty, and/or addiction. We currently serve approximately 90-150 people each week with food, clothing, medical supplies, hygiene, and more.

For over four years. the Outreach has distributed harm reduction supplies (including fentanyl testing strips) and Narcan as part of our life-saving efforts. This legislation would eliminate the risk of potential criminal and civil action against the organization.

On behalf of the Newark Homeless Outreach, we strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives.

Sincerely,

Patricia Perry

Newark Homeless Outreach- Co founder

OhioCAN- County coordinator

740 405 5682

t-pf@hotmail.com

¹ Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/media/2020+ohio+drug+overdose+report

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¹ Fentanyl test strips as an opioid overdose prevention strategy: Findings from a syringe services program in the Southeastern United States. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395918302135



March 25, 2022

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 296 which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products such as fentanyl test strips and deregulate naloxone. This legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines. Counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl also are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye. Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl. Additionally, fentanyl test strips have been shown to facilitate behavior change to protect against overdose. According to a 2018 John Hopkins study of active drug users, 70% of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior. Another study also concluded that individuals with a positive fentanyl test strip result were five times more likely to report changes in drug use behavior compared to those with a negative result. Despite the positive benefits, current law defines paraphernalia to include items used to test drugs, including fentanyl test strips, leaving many communities and organizations fearful of potential criminal and civil penalties for distributing these life-saving tools.

Additionally, SB 296 would align Ohio with other states such as Arizona, which updated its state law in 2021 to remove fentanyl test strips from the definition of drug paraphernalia. Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, SB 296 also would remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone, a life-saving drug that reverses an opioid overdose. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone.

Columbus Public Health's Addiction Services strongly supports the legalization of fentanyl test strips, and removal of barriers to naloxone distribution. We provide both of these lifesaving harm reduction tools along with education to those most impacted in the community to prevent overdoses and overdose deaths. Providing these important harm reduction strategies allows those with addiction and substance misuse to stay alive until they are ready to seek treatment services.

The bottom line is, SB 296 expands access to important interventions that will save the lives of countless Ohioans. As such, we strongly support and encourage passage of this critical legislation.

Best of Health,

Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH

Health Commissioner



ii Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/media/2020+ohio+drug+overdose+report

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^{IV} Fentanyl test strips as an opioid overdose prevention strategy: Findings from a syringe services program in the Southeastern United States. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395918302135



125 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 614.372.8010 // info@ohcouncilchs.org // www.ohcouncilchs.org

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Council of Churches to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Making it possible for individuals to check their drugs for the presence of fentanyl using fentanyl test strips is vital due to Ohio's increasingly lethal drug supply. For example, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines. Additionally, counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye. Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.

Fentanyl test strips have been shown to facilitate behavior change to protect against overdose. According to a 2018 John Hopkins Study of active drug users, 70% of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior. Another study, conducted out of North Carolina, concluded that individuals with a positive fentanyl test strip test result were five times more likely to report changes in drug use behavior compared to those with a negative result.

Under current law, paraphernalia is defined to include items used to test drugs, including fentanyl test strips. This leaves many Ohio communities and organizations fearful of potential criminal and civil penalties for distributing these life-saving tools. Senate Bill 296 would align Ohio with other states such as Arizona, which updated its state law in 2021 to remove fentanyl test strips from the definition of drug paraphernalia.

Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, Senate Bill 296 would also remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose, including those involving fentanyl. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone to all Ohioans.

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Churches, I strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives.

Sincerely,

Jack Sullivan, Jr.

The Reverend Jack Sullivan, Jr., D.Min., D.D. Executive Director



No longer alone. No longer silent. No longer ashamed.

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of The Addict's Parents United to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

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No longer alone. No longer silent. No longer ashamed.

There has been many of our children's lives saved by Naloxone, my son being one of them, and many of our children lost due to not having access to Narcan and the use of fentanyl test strips. This bill could help save many lives. Please know that our group of parents with the children with the disease of addiction and our group of parents that have lost a child SUPPORT and feel that this bill CAN have an impact to help keep our some of our children alive.

On behalf of **The Addict's Parents United (TAP United)** we strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives.

Sincerely,

Brenda Stewart

The Addict's Parents United – TAP United

Founder

www.tapunited.org

brenda@markbrenda.com

(614) 206-8129

ⁱ Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/media/2020+ohio+drug+overdose+report

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Fentanyl test strips as an opioid overdose prevention strategy: Findings from a syringe services program in the Southeastern United States. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395918302135



NEWARK THINK TANK ON POVERTY



The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of The Newark Think Tank on Poverty to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Making it possible for individuals to check their drugs for the presence of fentanyl using fentanyl test strips is vital due to Ohio's increasingly lethal drug supply. For example, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines.¹ Additionally, counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye.² Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.

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Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, Senate Bill 296 would also remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose, including those involving fentanyl. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone to all Ohioans.

The members of our leadership committee have unanimously agreed to have The Newark Think Tank sign this letter of support. We recognize that the issue of addiction and drug use affects many lives in Newark. We have seen local organizations struggle to save lives without funding due to fentanyl strips' current categorization.

On behalf of the Newark Think Tank on Poverty, we strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives.

Sincerely,

Members of the Newark Think Tank on Poverty

Starr Manufacturing, Inc. 4175 Warren Sharon Rd., Vienna, Ohio 44473-9524 Ph: 330-394-9891, Fax: 330-394-9890



March 22, 2022

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 296

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Starr Manufacturing, Inc. to express our support for Senate Bill 296, which would legalize the use of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips, and deregulate naloxone. If passed, this legislation would be a significant step forward for local communities and organizations working to prevent fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the state.

Making it possible for individuals to check their drugs for the presence of fentanyl using fentanyl test strips is vital due to Ohio's increasingly lethal drug supply. For example, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81% of Ohio's 2020 overdose deaths, often in combination with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines. Additionally, counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl are being sold on the streets that are nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye. Fentanyl test strips are easy to use, cost one dollar per strip, and are 96-100% accurate in detecting the presence of fentanyl.

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Along with the legalization of fentanyl test strips, Senate Bill 296 would also remove barriers to the distribution and administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose, including those involving fentanyl. This bill exempts naloxone from most Board of Pharmacy distribution laws and broadens access to naloxone to all Ohioans.

On behalf of Starr Manufacturing, Inc. and local agencies such as ASAP (Alliance for Substance Abuse & Prevention, Trumbull Co.) who are working to reduce drug deaths, we strongly support the passage of SB 296. This legislation expands access to important interventions necessary to respond to the dangerous rise of fentanyl in our state and will save lives. Sincerely.

Dale Foerster, VP

ⁱ Ohio Department of Health, 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/media/2020+ohio+drug+overdose+report

ii Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center Warns of Dangerous Counterfeit Prescription Tablets Found in Ohio. https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/news-and-events/all-news/onic-120321

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