

In Support of House Bill (HB) 5063 An Act Concerning Treatment for Drug Overdose

My name is Mary Marcuccio, I live in Southington, and I'm a parent of a 22 yr old son with an extensive drug history – iv heroin has been his drug of choice since 15 yrs old. I'm writing to admonish you to support HB 5063 An Act Concerning Treatment for Drug Overdose, because this is yet another life saving measure, and as I've mentioned in previous testimonies, the current laws around substance abuse/treatment/criminality ARE BROKEN. This bill is an attempt at correcting one of these breaks, which I fully support.

As I understand it, this bill seeks to expand the AVAILABILITY of Narcan. My hope is that this bill, probably with some revisions, will allow doctors to prescribe Narcan to people other than just the drug user HIMSELF, for example – ME, the mom, so that I could administer the medication to him in case of overdose And the reasoning behind this is because **A DRUG ADDICT ISN'T GOING TO ADMINISTER NARCAN TO HIMSELF DURING AN OVERDOSE – SOMEONE ELSE IS!** So if it's both available and legal for ME to do, then I could help to save his life in a crisis. Of course, 911 is still called for more medical help.

The reason for my admonition is because right now, the law says that only drug user Johnny can get the prescription, fill it, use it; as I've explained, it's frighteningly unreasonable to expect that to happen – someone that's overdosing can't self administer in any way – *someone else* must do that.

Which leads me to another point, and that is that I believe this bill is currently missing a key component – and that's the protection to ME, should I give my son the Narcan shot----- currently, if I *were* to, I'm subject to arrest and prosecution for administering a medication without a license (and I can tell you that I know of parents that have gone through JUST that scenario!).... so I would ask for an addendum that covers MY liability and protects me from prosecution.

Essentially what we're asking for is that Narcan be viewed, both practically and legally, in a vein similar to, for example, an **Epipen**, where society understands the overall importance of the medication for its life saving quality and is more broadly prescribed and *available for use* than with many other medications.

Once again, I'm asking you to support an option for greater health and safety... an opportunity to save a life, where that opportunity is CLEARLY available. This is a personal issue for me, having gone through numerous overdoses with my son, and a personal issue for many of the parents that I work with in my support group, whose interests I'm representing here.

Please -- support this legislation and any necessary changes to it, in order to help ME save the life of someone I love.

THANK YOU, MARY MARCUCCIO
45 Woodruff St., Southington CT 06489