

Senator Terry Gerratana, Representative Betsy Ritter, and members of the committee:

I have worked with substance users for over 15 years, and am writing to support H.B. No. 5063 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TREATMENT FOR A DRUG OVERDOSE.

About 10 years ago, one of our clients overdosed in the parking lot. The staff performed CPR, but he quit breathing, turned blue, and coded. Gratefully, the ambulance arrived, and they used narcan and a defibrillator. He went to the hospital, and was back in our office that afternoon.

I will never forget that day. Narcan saved his life. However, there are many other people who died from overdoses, and another one of my clients died last May. I used to keep a list of them, but quit because there seemed to be nothing that I could do. That time has changed, and you have the chance to make a huge difference.

Please support this bill and stop these senseless deaths. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin Clark-Smith