



Testimony of Lori J. Pelletier, President

Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Public Health Committee

February 16, 2016

Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter and the distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the over 200,000 union members and their families in our great state we present written testimony in favor of:

H.B. 5053 An Act Increasing Access To Overdose Reversal Drugs.

Connecticut, as with other states, is experiencing a devastating epidemic of overdose occurrences. These occurrences which can lead to death do not discriminate. From the biggest Connecticut cities to the most affluent suburbs, heroin and other opiates are claiming the lives of our residents at an alarming rate. No longer can we turn our heads the other way and say not in my hometown, it's happening everywhere.

While the legislature took the first step to authorize the State Police to carry the overdose reversal drug, it's time for this year legislature take the next step to help stop the unnecessary deaths that addiction to these drugs can cause by ensuring that all first responders in every municipality is equipped with an opioid antagonist; (Narcon or other approved drugs) and that all first responders has received the proper training to administer them.

Let's give our first responders the tools that they need to do what they do best, that being "SAVING LIVES".

Thank you for holding this very important public hearing.

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