

**Karolina Ksiazek  
New Haven, Connecticut**

**Testimony opposing HB 5583: An Act Concerning Emergency Intervention By A Police  
Officer When A Person Suffers An Overdose  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
March 2, 2021**

Dear Representative Horn, Senator Bradley, Senator Osten, Representative Paolillo, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

My name is Karolina Ksiazek. I am writing to testify in opposition to House Bill 5583.

Involuntary treatment has been shown to be **ineffective** and can increase the risk of a future overdose. Evidence shows that fear of interactions with law enforcement keeps people from accessing harm reduction services and from calling emergency services if an overdose does occur. Being taken into custody would add to the trauma of the overdose itself and do nothing to meaningfully address the harms of this opioid crisis.

The Public Safety and Security Committee should instead consider an **evidence-based** to overdose prevention and response, which includes compassionate and trauma-informed care that does not involve law enforcement. Rather than further increasing barriers to accessing emergency medical services, the State of Connecticut should empower communities to prevent fatal overdoses by increasing access to naloxone and fentanyl test strips.

For these reasons, I hope you will oppose House Bill 5583. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Karolina Ksiazek