



Senate Majority Office

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Urgent Opioid Harm Reduction Bill Passes Senate Committee, Heads to Floor**

*House Bill 2395 joins other bills held up by the Senate Republican walkout*

**SALEM, Ore** - Today the Senate Committee on Health Care voted unanimously to send [House Bill 2395](#) to the Senate Floor. House Bill 2395 will increase the availability of overdose reversing treatment, such as Narcan and naloxone, in Oregon.

“This bill will make live-saving medication more available across Oregon,” said **Senate Healthcare Committee Chair and Sen. Deb Patterson (D - Salem)**. “Thank you to all of the law enforcement, first responders, school employees and health care professionals who worked to craft this bill.”

House Bill 2395 has an emergency clause and would go into effect immediately upon passage. It is being held up for a vote on the Senate floor due to Republican senators walking off the job. The bill is sponsored by Democrats and Republicans and was passed with bipartisan support in the House.

[The Oregon Health Authority reports](#) around 20 people in Oregon die from drug overdose every week. A majority of these fatalities involve synthetic opioids, including fentanyl. Those lives could be saved if overdose reversing treatments were more available.

Currently, [Oregon is facing a surge](#) in the distribution of counterfeit opioid pills that contain lethal doses of fentanyl. These fake pills pose a grave risk to public health as they are being sold on the black market as legitimate prescription drugs, and a single pill can lead to an overdose.

“Oregonians can’t wait for this life-saving medication,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton & SW Portland)**. “Every day Senate Republicans walk out on their jobs is another day we continue to lose Oregonians to preventable overdose deaths.”

Oregon Senate Democrats’ 2023 [“Oregon Works” agenda](#) includes expanding access to mental health care and addiction recovery services and implementing crisis interventions statewide.

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