

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Julie M. Rogers
State Representative
Chair, House Health Policy Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: Support for House Bills 5077 and 5078

Dear Chair Rogers and Members of the Health Policy Committee,

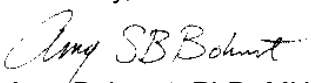
We would like to thank you for considering House Bills 5077 and 5078. As co-directors of the University of Michigan Opioid Research Institute, our mission is to bring together researchers across all three campuses to collaborate with our communities, state and nation to address the opioid crisis. Our primary goal is to work with our partners to reduce overdose deaths through evidence-based research and programs.

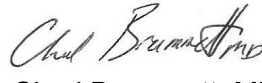
As you are aware, HB 5077 and 5078 expand the ability for an agency or its employee or agent who has been properly trained to distribute an opioid antagonist to any individual. Opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, save countless lives from an overdose every day. The Opioid Research Institute, in partnership with the University of Michigan's Overdose Prevention Engagement Network (OPEN), recently announced a collaboration with Michigan Medicine to install a naloxone vending machine outside of its emergency department and another in our inpatient hospital. Unfortunately, our teams are having to restock it often; fortunately, that means folks are using this critical aid in overdose prevention.

Additionally, one of the Institute's faculty leaders, Gina Dahlem, PhD clinical associate professor of nursing, regularly works with communities, EMS personnel and law enforcement to conduct training sessions around Michigan on the administration of naloxone. Dr. Dahlem, along with Michigan Medicine's emergency physician, Keith Kocher, MD has also conducted multiple trainings on naloxone distribution and administration in emergency departments around the state. The passage of HB 5077 and 5078 will support the continuation of these and other critical public health programs.

With these bills, naloxone will be more broadly distributed and therefore further the ultimate goal of saving lives. We support the passage of HB 5077 and 5078, and appreciate the bill sponsors, Representatives VanderWall and Rheingans for introducing this legislation. Should you have any questions, or if we may be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,


Amy Bohnert, PhD, MHS
Co-Director, Opioid Research Institute
Professor of Anesthesiology
Professor of Psychiatry
Professor of Epidemiology


Chad Brummett, MD
Co-Director, Opioid Research Institute
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