

HB 2217 – Standards governing the use and administration of emergency opioid antagonists.

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Proponent Testimony – Written Only

*Joseph House, Paramedic
Executive Director
Emergency Medical Services Board*

Madame Chair Schmidt and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony upon HB 2217. Our Board is supportive of the overall intent of the bill and of its preventative nature.

In a previous version of this bill, we identified a potential area of confusion that led us to be of a neutral position during the hearing within the House committee. An amendment was made by that committee to eliminate that area of confusion and we are in full support of HB 2217.

We support and appreciate that this bill takes into account the need for medical oversight of the first responder agency and requires measures to ensure that EMS is contacted for any administration of this antagonist.

Our Board also supports access to opioid antagonists as we are nearing completion of the regulatory revision process to allow for all EMS providers to have the ability to administer naloxone for suspected opioid overdoses. We anticipate these revisions to go into effect by the end of April.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 2217 and would urge your support to pass this bill out favorably.