

Mr. Chair, and Members of the Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee:

My name is Jane Krentz, and I am writing to support the change to current law requested by students in HF 2023.

I am a former teacher and served as Vice Chair of the MN Senate Education Committee from 1993-1996, and was a member of the Education Committee until 2003. Subsequently, I worked at Hamline University and was the Director of an after-school program serving urban middle and high school youth at multiple locations in St. Paul and Maplewood.

SF 2234 is both timely and important, just as rapid response for someone who has overdosed is critical to their survival. Drugstores now sell Narcan to enable people to provide help to someone who has overdosed on opioids. It can restore normal breathing within 2 to 3 minutes in a person whose breath has slowed, or even stopped, as a result of opioid overdose. It seems prudent to give our young people the tools they would need to save a friend or stranger's life, if the situation ever arose.

We've likely all heard stories of accidental overdose. Can you imagine the horror felt by someone who watched their friend or classmate in such a situation. The horror would be compounded if they were helpless to do anything about it. Especially, if there were steps they could have taken that could have made a difference.

This is a prudent, common-sense addition to current law. I urge you to support SF 2234.

Sincerely,

Jane Krentz

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