



May 15, 2023

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The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 472 (Hurtado) Pupil health: Opioid overdose reversal medication – SUPPORT AND RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS**

Dear Senator Hurtado,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California’s sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your SB 472 which will require each public school to carry two doses of naloxone. We are also recommending that the bill be amended to require schools maintain more than two doses, and that schools make more than one trained person available to administer naloxone.

Health officers protect public health in their communities through disease prevention, emergency preparedness, health education and promotion, regulating environmental hazards, and advocating for programs that promote health equity. Opioid overdoses can happen anywhere, including in schools, and SB 472 will ensure that there is a quick response to an overdose and increase the chances of survival for the affected student.

Research suggests that social and environmental factors can play a significant role in youth opioid use, with peer pressure, social norms, and easy access to drugs all contributing to youth using opioids in group settings. Additionally, the average high school size in California is approximately 1,700 students, which is why the health officers are recommending that this bill require more than two doses at each school, and that schools have more than one trained person available to administer naloxone in the event that a group of students overdoses.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of all Californians. For these reasons, HOAC supports SB 472 and thanks you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director  
Health Officers Association of California