



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

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[www.spanationwide.org](http://www.spanationwide.org)

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Position Letter: SB 137 (Johnson) — Support

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) writes in strong support of SB 137, which would require hospitals to provide overdose reversal medication, such as naloxone, to patients treated for opioid-related overdoses. We commend Senator Johnson for his leadership in advancing this critical public health measure.

Ohio continues to face one of the highest overdose death rates in the country. In 2023 alone, more than 4,000 Ohioans lost their lives to unintentional drug overdoses. Research shows that providing naloxone at discharge – along with clear instructions on its use – significantly reduces the risk of repeat overdoses and increases the likelihood that patients will seek treatment.

Hospitals and emergency departments are a vital point of intervention. SB 137 ensures that individuals at highest risk leave with the lifesaving tools and information they need. This bill will not only save lives but also help connect patients and families to addiction treatment and recovery resources.

SPAN applauds this step toward improving harm reduction practices in Ohio and ensuring that no patient leaves the hospital without a second chance at life. We urge the committee to advance SB 137 without delay.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to the health and well-being of Ohio communities.

Sincerely,

**Shayan Saqib**  
HS Ambassador, SPAN

**Vishank Panchbhavi**  
Collegiate Ambassador, SPAN

**Joel Blessan**  
Policy Research Director, SPAN



