



# Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine

*A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine*

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March 20, 2025

The Honorable Meghan Lukens  
Chair  
House Committee on Education  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E Colfax Avenue, House Committee Room 107  
Denver, CO 80203

## Re: COSAM's Support for HB25-1293, Drug Overdose Education & Opioid Antagonists in Schools

Dear Chair Lukens,

On behalf of the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Colorado specializing in the treatment of addiction, we write today in support of HB25-1293.

This important legislation would enhance access to opioid antagonists, like naloxone, in schools. It would also require education in grades 9-12 about drug overdose prevention and response.

Overall, HB25-1293 would be a positive step towards embracing a comprehensive approach to the overdose crisis. Specifically, HB25-1293 would increase awareness of overdose prevention among our state's youth, including by increasing the supply of naloxone in schools. Naloxone is a safe and effective opioid antagonist, capable of reversing the effects of an overdose. Thus, it is an essential tool to reduce overdose deaths. Unfortunately, younger people have not escaped negative effects from the overdose crisis. From 2010 to 2021, there was a 121% increase in adolescent overdose deaths.<sup>1</sup> Among youths who died from an overdose from 2019 to 2021, naloxone was used only 33% of the time.<sup>2</sup> Increased access to naloxone is a critical tool to save lives of Coloradans.

We commend the sponsors of HB25-1293 for their commitment to addressing the devastating effects of the overdose epidemic in our state. **COSAM is proud to support HB25-1293 and urges all members of the committee to vote for this legislation.** Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stewart, MD, MPHS, MRO, FASAM  
President, Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM)  
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CC: The Honorable Matthew Martinez  
The Honorable Jennifer Bacon  
The Honorable Mary Bradfield  
The Honorable Jarvis Caldwell  
The Honorable Lori Garcia Sander  
The Honorable Lindsay Gilchrist  
The Honorable Eliza Hamrick  
The Honorable Anthony Hartsook  
The Honorable Dusty Johnson  
The Honorable Jacque Phillips  
The Honorable Lesley Smith  
The Honorable Tammy Story

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<sup>1</sup> Friedman J, Godvin M, Shover CL, Gone JP, Hansen H, Schriger DL. Trends in drug overdose deaths among US adolescents, January 2010 to June 2021. *JAMA*. 2022;327(14):1398–1400. 10.1001/jama.2022.2847

<sup>2</sup> Tanz LJ. Drug overdose deaths among persons aged 10–19 years—United States, July 2019–December 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2022;71(50):1576–1582. 10.15585/mmwr.mm7150a2