



Testimony of Whitney A. Parrish

LD 1333 - Ought To Pass

**An Act Concerning the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by
Emergency Medical Services Providers**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

April 23, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Whitney Parrish, and I am the Advocacy and Communications Director for Health Equity Alliance (HEAL) and a resident of Hallowell. Health Equity Alliance is a nonpartisan nonprofit public health and harm reduction organization that envisions and works toward a world where all people are valued and celebrated, and health justice is realized for everyone, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or what their lives look like.

I am here today to speak in favor of LD 1333, **An Act Concerning the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Partners**, because all front-line emergency medical services providers must be able to appropriately respond to an overdose call in the most effective manner they can.

Health Equity Alliance operates Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention-certified (CDC) syringe service programs across northern, Down East, and Mid Coast Maine. We distribute intranasal and intramuscular naloxone at every location, as well as provide education on how to administer this safe, effective, and life-saving drug.

In fact, I am qualified to train on the administration of both intranasal (IN) and intramuscular (IM) of naloxone, and I carry my own IM naloxone because I love people who use drugs, people on long-term opioid regimens for pain management, and because it is the right thing to do. Both intramuscular and intranasal naloxone are easy to use, effective, and should be in the hands of anyone who might be in the position to reverse an overdose.

Any time an overdose call is answered by emergency medical services providers, we view this as an extremely positive thing. Giving them all the tools they need to save lives in the quickest, most effective ways possible is imperative. Closing this gap in statute will do just that.



We strongly urge you to vote '**Ought to Pass**' on LD 1333 and thank Representative Zager for his leadership on working to stem the tragic, escalating wave of preventable overdose death in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to take any questions you may have.