

## Dialogue They Deserve

Wilson, Joshua

Oklahoma State University OIL Delegation

Imagine you are walking through a bar. It's a chilly November night and the wind has started to die down across the streets of Oklahoma. You came in to take a break from the troubles of moot court competitions or maybe to hang out with some of your crazy friends from the Senate. You are looking across the room - feeling out the room - when all of a sudden you see a girl collapse out of her chair and begins shivering on the floor. The room fills with shuddered gasps along with the gurgling, choking sounds from the lady. You hear someone in the room point out the blue tint to the girl's skin and the pale hue in her eyes. After 30 minutes of the room of people trying to comfort the gal whilst crying in desperation due to all the unknown unknowns, the girl's anorectic fever fades. The girl has died.

In 2023 alone, an estimated 105,000 Americans died of overdose.<sup>1</sup> These are senseless deaths, not caused by a school shooter, a gang, or any other agent of evil. No. These people die of something much more simple yet just as deadly: an uneducated and intolerant community.

Before I came to college, I had no idea what Narcan was. My mother suffered from a

dependency to opioids due to a chronic illness that she developed in 2008. Year after year, we watched my mother's decline as her opioid prescriptions increased. On occasion, my siblings and I would come home to school to find our mother twitching on the floor like in the scenario described above, due to her misreading some prescription labeling. As eight year olds we experienced what it was like to watch a loved one suffer from an overdose. After so many incidents, our father had to instruct us how to administer Narcan so that we could help our mom and other folks in future situations. There have been times that I have probably saved my mom's life due to my understanding of drug dependency and how to administer life saving

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pharmaceuticals like Narcan. Many other Americans - like those described in the scenario above - do not have the same luxury. I believe that is why so many senseless deaths happen every year in America: because of a lack of education.

That is why I believe it is imperative that we see House Bill Number SNU 504 this year. All across America there are situations similar to the bar scenario: people who want to help people who are overdosing, but they and restaurants/venue staff lack the education to recognize overdose and when to administer Narcan. This bill starts a conversation on life saving policy that could save thousands of lives a year. These victims deserve a dialogue. I think its time we give their concerns a voice.

#### Works Cited

1. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Oklahoma State. "Drug Overdose."

*Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs*. Accessed November 13, 2025.

[https://www.obnidd.ok.gov/news-and-publications/drug-education/drug-ods.](https://www.obnidd.ok.gov/news-and-publications/drug-education/drug-ods)