



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1091		DATE: 2/21/2023
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/21/2023 11:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in Support of this Bill on its face.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW WELSH		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: OPIANT		TITLE: GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIR.	
ADDRESS: 233 WILSHIRE BLVD			
CITY: SANTA MONICA		STATE: CA	ZIP: 90401
EMAIL: mwelsh@opiant.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2023 11:36 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, My name is Matthew Welsh, and I am a Government Affairs Director at Opiant Pharmaceuticals, an organization focused on developing best in class medicines for the treatment of addictions and drug overdose. I am testifying today in support of HB 1091, which would remove specific references to the naloxone hydrochloride molecule in Missouri's definition of "opiate antagonist." The purpose of this is to ensure Missouri is able to access new formulations of FDA-approved opioid antagonists. According to provisional data released by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, there were an estimated 107,477 drug overdose deaths in the US over a 12-month period ending in September of 2022. 2,111 of those deaths were in Missouri. We know the opioid epidemic has shifted from primarily a prescription opioid to a fentanyl-based opioid crisis - this is concerning due in part to the increased strength and length of effects of fentanyl versus a natural opioid like prescription pills or heroin. As the opioid crisis continues to evolve, innovative reversal agents are being developed which may be better suited to reverse an overdose caused by synthetic opioids. As these agents become available, they will offer states, providers, and patients more choices to combat deadly overdoses. As currently written, however, Missouri's code would preclude formulations that don't use naloxone to be dispensed. We ask that the language be expanded to include all FDA-approve opioid overdose reversal agents instead of being limited to naloxone. This simple language change will ensure that Missouri can access all available opioid antagonists and have every tool available to them in a time of crisis. I appreciate your consideration and hope you will vote to report this bill favorably. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.