

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House File 862. For the record, my name is Adam Thompson, and I am the Advocacy Coordinator at Students United, the statewide student association representing all current, future, and former students attending Minnesota State's seven universities.

You would normally be much luckier in hearing from some of our students, but as the student board are currently on a flight to Washington D.C. to represent our students in meetings with Minnesota's federal delegation, I am here in their stead to share why HF 862 is so important.

Every semester, Students United completes a tour of our seven campuses, where we meet with staff, faculty, administration, and most importantly students. During this set of spring visits, we had conversations about Naloxone access at every university. We also partnered with the Steve Rummier Hope Network to host trainings on administering Naloxone at each campus. What we found during the visits was confirmation on the importance of this bill.

Currently, there is a wide variance of practices when it comes to Naloxone access at campuses. Many schools already go beyond on this bill; already having Naloxone in every AED, having it in every campus security bag, and having a wide set of staff trained in administration. But we also saw campuses that didn't have these resources, where no Naloxone was available to students, little to no staff were trained, or not even campus security had access to Naloxone in an emergency.

We also found across the board, no matter what the current set of practice, strong support for the policy this bill would implement. Folks we spoke with, from campus housing, security, student support, presidents, and student governments, all favored this policy. Students and Staff on campus showed little concern about the potential cost as this is an inexpensive policy that will be a crucial tool in saving student lives. Many of the Student Senates on these campuses have also passed motions of support and already started conversations with local partners who have offered trainings and supplies. Our campuses are eager to have more done and fortunately this bill is an opportunity to take an important step forward.

We are grateful for Representative Schomaker's leadership on this bill, and we strongly encourage its passage.

Once again, I would like to thank Chair Rarick and the Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today. I'll be happy to answer any questions