



28TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-1772
FAX: (517) 373-5906
E-MAIL: patrickgreen@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PATRICK GREEN
ASSISTANT MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

COMMITTEES:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MVC
ENERGY POLICY
FINANCIAL SERVICES

May 16, 2018

Chair Hank Vaupel
State Representative – 47th District
896 Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chair Vaupel,

I am contacting you today to formally request a committee hearing on House Bill 5849, legislation to allow local and state corrections officers to carry and administer opioid antagonists.

The bill would amend the carrying and administering opioid antagonists act to include local and state corrections officers in the definition of "peace officer." Despite our best efforts, controlled substances are frequently smuggled into correctional facilities and distributed among the inmates. Corrections officers are always the first responders on the scene of drug overdoses in prison because they encounter overdoses during regular wellness checks and rounds. We need to make sure corrections officers have the tools and medications they need to respond to a drug overdose until further medical care can be administered.

Enabling corrections officers to carry and administer opioid antagonists has been identified as a legislative priority for the Michigan Corrections Organization. In addition, I am happy to have the support of several of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Last session, legislation on this topic passed in the House and passed in the Senate Health Policy committee, but there was not enough time in the year for a vote on the Senate floor. It is important we pass this legislation to keep our corrections officers safe and do all we can to prevent drug related overdoses and deaths in our prisons.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate and applaud your commitment to combatting the opioid crisis, and I hope we can work together to pass HB 5849. Please feel free to contact my office or talk to me on the floor if you have any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,

Patrick Green

Cc: Representative Jim Tedder, Majority Vice-Chair, 43rd District
Representative Winnie Brinks, Minority Vice-Chair, 76th District
Jeremy Tripp, Director of Government & Political Affairs, Michigan Corrections Organization