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I was told about the opportunity to provide testimony for legislation to help make NARCAN more affordable - HB0736 - NARCAN Price Cap Act. I am the director of Musicians for Overdose Prevention and I would like to offer my testimony.

Testimony:

I am the director of Musicians for Overdose Prevention and we distribute naloxone to musicians and music venues. I started this work because I personally knew three musicians who overdosed and died in 2019. I have also ridden in the back of an EMS truck as my younger brother was overdosing and watched as naloxone saved his life. I understand the issue of over-inflated pricing of narcan by Emergent Biosolutions. I protested outside Emergent Biosolutions Headquarters in Baltimore Maryland on October 22, 2022. We bought a flatbed truck, a sound system, and three bands to blast music at the offices and demand affordable narcan.

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/2022/10/27/at-concert-outside-baltimore-plant-musicians-protest-maryland-pharmaceutical-companys-narcan-prices/>. Musicians for Overdose Prevention also created a compilation album "Ramonesesque" to bring awareness to the cost and accessibility of narcan:

<https://musicmecca.org/john-kennedy-of-musicians-for-overdose-prevention-discusses-importance-of-accessible-narcan-new-punk-compilation-album-ramones-esque/>

If you walk into a pharmacy in Maryland and buy narcan it will cost at least \$45. It is too expensive for a user. It is too expensive for community harm reduction organizations or for Musicians for Overdose Prevention. For example - if a harm reduction organization gives out 1000 naloxone kits a month then it costs \$45,000 a month, \$540,000 a year. Emergent Biosolutions is pricing narcan to sell to state governments to maximize profits - because only a state budget can afford their elevated prices.

You don't have to pay \$45 for a kit. It costs approximately \$1 to make the nasal spray and it carries about \$1 of naloxone. Emergent Biosolutions didn't even invent naloxone - they just made the nasal spray. Emergent Biosolutions is maximizing profits over lives, to the detriment of your state budget.

I appreciate the time you have given this issue. By lowering the cost of narcan you will save lives and it will be easier to manage the state budget. I will add one last thought. Between 1995 and 2015 big pharma falsely marketed prescription opioids as safe. Through aggressive sales they made massive profits and created millions of addicts and hundreds of thousands of overdose deaths. The legal system has fined big pharma and created funds that are to respond

to the overdose epidemic worth billions of dollars. Emergent Biosolutions has positioned itself, with its inflated pricing of narcan, to be the biggest beneficiary of those opioid settlement funds. This is just moving billions of dollars from one big pharma company to another - for a problem that big pharma created. And it doesn't have to be this way. I am just asking that you don't pay Emergent Biosolutions their inflated prices. It's the best for your budget and to save lives.

Thank you for your time - and allowing me to speak and share my testimony.

John Kennedy
Musicians for Overdose Prevention