



**Daniel Carl Torsch
Foundation**
New day. New beginning.

Date: February 14, 2025
Bill Number: SB 594
Position: Favorable

SB 594 - Public Health - Use of Opioid Restitution Fund and Training Under the Overdose Response Program

The Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation is strongly in favor of SB 594 that will expand the allowable uses of the opioid restitution fund. As we continue to confront the opioid crisis in our communities, it is vital that we take a holistic approach to addressing social determinants of health. The crisis has had a profound impact on families, particularly those who have lost loved ones and those who are working hard to rebuild their lives and futures.

The opioid epidemic has left many families grappling with not only the health consequences but also significant social and economic challenges. In addition to healthcare services and addiction recovery programs, families affected by opioid misuse face a range of barriers to achieving stability, such as lack of access to affordable childcare, transportation, and housing. These barriers can often delay or even derail the recovery process for individuals and families, making it harder for them to maintain employment, secure stable housing, and provide for their children's needs.

By allowing the opioid restitution fund to be used for programs that offer critical services like childcare, transportation assistance, and housing support, this legislation will provide much-needed relief to families working to overcome the effects of addiction. This expanded use of the fund recognizes the interconnected nature of recovery—ensuring families have access to the resources they need to thrive not just in their recovery journey, but in everyday life.

In addition, a vital point of this bill is to recognize the imperative language to include in the training component of the Overdose Response Programs. It's important to note that while naloxone is often life-saving, the goal is to reverse the overdose just enough to allow the person to breathe normally and to seek further medical care, rather than pushing them into severe withdrawal. There is a need for compassionate use and care. The right dose of naloxone balances saving the individual's life while minimizing the trauma of withdrawal symptoms. It is not best practice to use higher dosages of naloxone.

I urge you to support and advocate for the passage of this law, which will significantly improve the quality of life for families impacted by the opioid crisis. By helping families and individuals with these foundational needs, we will foster stronger, more resilient communities in the long term.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I am confident that with your leadership, we can make a positive and lasting difference for those most affected by the opioid epidemic.

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