



**Daniel Carl Torsch
Foundation**

New day. New beginning.

Date: February 17, 2025

Bill Number: HB 737

Position: Favorable

SB 594 - Public Health - Nonopioid Advance Directives

I am writing to express my support for the passage of HB 737, which seeks to allow individuals to include non-opioid pain management preferences in their advance directives. As an advocate in the community and addiction arena, I believe this legislation will empowering patients to make informed decisions about their health care, particularly as it relates to pain management, and will significantly contribute to the well-being of those with chronic pain or facing end-of-life care.

Opioid Crisis and Patient Rights

As you are aware, the opioid epidemic has led to devastating consequences for many individuals and families, including widespread addiction, overdose deaths, and long-term health complications. In response to these challenges, there has been a growing shift toward more responsible, alternative pain management solutions. The ability to outline a preference for non-opioid treatments in advance directives would provide individuals with greater control over their medical care, reduce unnecessary exposure to opioids, and support their choice of safer, effective treatments.

Empowering Patient Choice

Allowing non-opioid use in advance directives would empower patients to choose what is best for their own health, particularly for those who have experienced opioid dependency or have a personal or family history of substance use disorders. This bill will also be of particular benefit to individuals who are concerned about the risks of opioid medications, including those seeking alternatives for pain management, such as acupuncture, physical therapy, and non-narcotic medications.

Improving Health Outcomes

Including non-opioid preferences in advance directives could lead to improved long-term health outcomes by providing individuals with access to a broader range of pain management options. This legislative change would help ensure that patients are treated according to their wishes, reducing the likelihood of inappropriate opioid prescriptions, and leading to a more holistic, personalized approach to pain care.

In conclusion, this bill aligns with the evolving needs of our healthcare system, promoting patient-centered care, reducing the potential harms of opioid medications, and offering more comprehensive, personalized approaches to pain management. I urge you to support the passage of this bill for the benefit of individuals across our community and beyond.

Toni Torsch, Director

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