

Date: June 15, 2015

From: Josiah D. "Jody" Rich, MD, MPH

Re: Senator McCaffrey's Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act (SB-576).

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This petition is being brought to your attention on behalf of Josiah D. "Jody" Rich, MD MPH. We strongly urge you to vote in favor of Senator McCaffrey's Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act (SB-576).

Rhode Island, like the rest of the country is currently in the midst of a severe epidemic of opioid related overdose deaths, killing more Rhode Islanders than suicide, homicide and traffic accidents combined.

In many instances of overdose, a fatal outcome can be prevented with the timely intervention of emergency medical services triggered by a call to 911. A substantial number of overdoses occur in the presence of other people. A key strategy to prevent overdose related deaths is to encourage people to call 911 in the event of an overdose. Unfortunately many people at the scene of an overdose are reluctant to call 911 for fear of arrest.

Senator McCaffrey's Bill will allow for a simple public health message to be given both to people at the scene of an overdose ("call 911") and to Law Enforcement Experts ("this is a medical emergency, not a crime scene"), that will lead to fewer overdose deaths in Rhode Island.

We strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 576 as an important way to save countless lives.

Please sign below

Thank you

**SENATOR McCAFFERTY'S GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACT (SB-576)**

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