

Senate Bill

Act Number: 2023-02

9 October 2023

Introduced by: Senate President Madison Weeks

Proposed by: Secretary of Diversity & Inclusion Madison Case

Whereas: The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

Whereas: In the past year, young adults between 18 and 25 reported using opioids more than [any other age group](#). This means college-age students are at an increased risk for developing opioid use disorders;

Whereas: Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is a [hundred times more potent than morphine](#) and even a small dosage can lead to a deadly overdose. The United States of America is currently suffering from an epidemic of fentanyl in which a dramatic rise in related deaths has occurred;

Whereas: Fentanyl is more [commonly being laced into many other drugs unknowingly](#), which can drastically increase the risk of death upon opiate consumption. College-aged students are at risk of unintentional exposure to fentanyl and may need immediate overdose treatment in order to save their lives;

Whereas: From 2017 to 2023, 3,756 individuals received at least one dose of naloxone administered by Emergency Medical Services or Law Enforcement in [Bergen County, N.J. alone](#);

Whereas: Public health initiatives that focus on harm reduction for substance use have shown to have [significant benefits](#) for health and well-being;

Whereas: Naloxone distribution as a harm reduction strategy allows for the successful prevention of an overdose when administered quick and efficiently;

Whereas: Ramapo is a stigma-free campus and supplying naloxone will assist in eliminating the stigma associated with substance use disorders which potentially results in a higher percentage of affected students seeking help;

Whereas: Ramapo abides by its Good Samaritan Policy, which exists so that students will seek medical attention for themselves or others without the fear of disciplinary outcomes. This policy promotes usage of Narcan in emergency situations.

Whereas: Governor Phil Murphy passed [Naloxone 365](#) in January of 2023, which states that Narcan is now available without a prescription and without training. This legislation ensures that anyone over the age of 14 can receive Narcan anonymously and for free from any participating pharmacy.

Whereas: New Jersey state institutions, such as Montclair State University and Bergen County Community College, have addressed the issue by making Narcan widely available in campus AED boxes, residence halls, academic buildings, and administrative offices in highly visible areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The SGA will work with Bergen County's The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources (TCADR) and the New Jersey Department of Health to install Narcan kits across campus, namely in campus AED boxes, academic buildings, residence halls, to prevent the loss of life from opioid overdose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The SGA will work with relevant faculty and staff members, including but not limited to the Dean of Students, professors of the Substance Use Disorders minor, and Public Safety, in order to implement these changes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The SGA encourages increased Narcan administration training for faculty, staff, and resident assistants on campus.

Shannon DeCicco

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President '23 - '24

Madison Weeks

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Senate President '23- '24