

Overdose Prevention Initiative

Statement from Libby Jones, Associate Vice President, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Overdose Prevention Initiative on reintroduction of the [WORK to Save Lives Act](#)

February 10, 2026

“Workplaces should not have to improvise in an overdose emergency. The [WORK to Save Lives Act](#) directs the U.S. Department of Labor to issue practical guidance on stocking opioid overdose reversal medication and training staff, so employers can protect workers without new mandates. The bill provides clear, workable steps to prepare employers for an overdose emergency and protect the people who keep our communities running.

Workplace overdose deaths continue to rise. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) data show 525 unintentional overdose deaths at work in 2022, the tenth straight year of increases. The [National Safety Council](#) reports 512 workplace overdose deaths in 2023, 9.7 percent of all occupational injury deaths.

For many people with substance use disorders, workplaces can serve as the front door for safety and support. CDC’s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimates nearly [two-thirds of adults](#) with a substance use disorder in 2022 were employed.

Employers can act with tools that already exist. The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) approved the first over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray in 2023, which can support [workplace readiness](#) and emergency response planning. When overdose risk follows people to work, employers need clarity. This bill delivers it, and Congress can move it quickly.

We thank Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman and John Rutherford and Senators Jeff Merkley and Lisa Murkowski for leading a bipartisan, bicameral effort to make workplace overdose readiness a shared priority.”

About the Overdose Prevention Initiative

Established in 2021, the [Overdose Prevention Initiative](#) at the [Global Health Advocacy Incubator](#) advances policy solutions that save lives and end the U.S. overdose crisis. The Initiative is dedicated to reducing inequities and disparities in addiction care and expanding access to harm reduction services and addiction treatment. The Overdose Prevention Initiative is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

