Student Government Association
of James Madison University
HARRISONBURG, V.A.

BILL OF OPINION

To urge the implementation of an annual Narcan training for all Risk Management Officers of Greek Life Organizations at James Madison University.

IN THE SENATE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Senator Marcus Rand submitted the following bill in conjunction with Student Body Vice President Faith Forman.

With support from the following organizations

ResQed

The Panhellenic Council of James Madison University

Student Government Association
of James Madison University
HARRISONBURG, V.A.

A BILL OF OPINION

To urge the James Madison University Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Center for Multicultural Student Services to implement a Narcan training program for members of the Greek Community. We call on these offices to require all Risk Management Officers to complete drug overdose and Narcan administration training; implementing this training alongside their respective Greek councils would ensure that each organization is prepared to handle opioid-related crises and create a safer campus community.

Whereas, Opioid overdoses have dramatically increased nationally from 21,089 in 2010 to 80,411 in 2021[1], AND;

Whereas, 150 people die each day from opioid overdoses nationally[2], AND;

Whereas, Naloxone has been shown to be an effective emergency medication to reverse narcotic overdoses, AND;

---

[1] National Institute on Drug Abuse. 2023. "Drug Overdose Death Rates." National Institute on Drug Abuse. National Institutes of Health. June 30, 2023. https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates.
[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021. "Fentanyl Facts." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. September 20, 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html.

Student Government Association
of James Madison University
HARRISONBURG, V.A.

Whereas, The death rate of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids in the Commonwealth of Virginia has increased by 257% from 2018 to 2022[3], AND;

Whereas, In 2022, 2,102 Virginians have died as a result of an opioid overdose[3], AND;

Whereas, Almost eight out of 10 (79%) drug overdose deaths involve fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and tramadol[4], AND;

Whereas, Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for adults ages 18-45 in the United States[5], AND;

Whereas, Studies have demonstrated a connection between Greek affiliation and drug use[6], AND;

---

[3] Virginia Department of Health. 2022. "Overdose Deaths." Drug Overdose Data. Virginia Department of Health. 2022. https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drug-overdose-data/overdose-deaths/#trend.
[4]Virginia Department of Health. 2023. "Drug Overdose and Related Health Outcomes." Drug Overdose Data. Virginia Department of Health. 2023. https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drug-overdose-data/.
[5] Campus Drug Prevention. n.d. "The Fentanyl Epidemic: Experts Discuss Impact on College Students, UH Vaccine | Campus Drug Prevention." www.campusdrugprevention.gov. Drug Enforcement Administration. https://www.campusdrugprevention.gov/fentanyl-epidemic-experts-discuss-impact-college-students-uh-vaccine.
[6] Scott-Sheldon, L.A.J., Carey, K.B. & Carey, M.P. Health behavior and college students: Does Greek affiliation matter?. J Behav Med 31, 61–70 (2008). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10865-007-9136-1

Whereas, In 2022, the drug overdose death rate was 15.8 per 100,000 residents in Rockingham County and 15.0 per 100,000 residents in the City of Harrisonburg[3], AND;

Whereas, Studies have indicated that "college students with naloxone training scored higher on opioid overdose risk, signs, action, and naloxone administration scales,"[7] AND;

Whereas, Availability of overdose reversal medication does not incentivize the use of drugs, but rather provides lifesaving treatment in the event of a medical emergency, AND;

Whereas, Stigma and cost concerns have been identified as some of the primary barriers to the implementation of Narcan programs nationally[8], AND;

---

[7] Stover, Amanda N., Kristin Grogg, Jayeshkumar Patel, Douglas Thornton, and Nilanjana Dwibedi. 2019. "Opioid Overdose Knowledge among College Students in a High Overdose Death State." *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* 29 (7): 887–96. https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2019.1633981.

[8] Winstanley, Erin L., Angela Clark, Judith Feinberg, and Christine M. Wilder. 2015. "Barriers to Implementation of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs in Ohio." *Substance Abuse* 37 (1): 42–46. https://doi.org/10.1080/08897077.2015.1132294.

Whereas, Narcan training initiatives implemented by Syracuse University's chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta successfully trained 75 members of the organization in Narcan administration[9], AND;

Whereas, Risk Management policy among Fraternities and Sororities at James Madison University is largely coordinated by each chapter's respective national organization rather than standardized by the university, AND;

Whereas, No buildings on the campus of James Madison University currently feature publicly accessible Naloxone for opioid overdoses, AND;

Whereas, James Madison University has stated in the Summer 2023 Strategic Plan Structure its goal to "develop and maintain the physical health of our students"[10], AND:

Whereas, The ResQed student organization and Rescue Squad members are trained to conduct Narcan administration training, AND;

---

[9] Samstag, Claire. 2023. "Greek Life Chapters Take Action in Overdose Prevention, Intervention Training." The Daily Orange. The Daily Orange Corporation. October 30, 2023. https://dailyorange.com/2023/10/greek-life-chapters-take-action-in-overdose-prevention-intervention-training/.

[10] James Madison University. 2023. "Strategic Plan Structure – Summer 2023." James Madison University. 2023. https://www.jmu.edu/jmuplans/_docs/strategic_plan.pdf.

Whereas, Members of ResQed have been working to train students in Narcan use and emergency response measures in recent years, AND;

Whereas, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan for over-the-counter distribution nationwide on March 29th, 2023[11], AND;

Whereas, The James Madison University Student Handbook Enlightened Citizen Amnesty Policy (ECAP) provides for amnesty from disciplinary action for "students to get help for themselves or others when alcohol or drugs are involved and medical assistance is needed"[12], AND;

Whereas, The Harrisonburg Rockingham Community Services Board provides Narcan administration kits at no cost for individuals completing *REVIVE!* training[13], AND;

---

[11] Food and Drug Administration. 2023. "FDA Approves First Over-The-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray." FDA. March 29, 2023. https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-over-counter-naloxone-nasal-spray.

[12] https://www.jmu.edu/osarp/handbook/osarp/alcoholanddruginfo.shtml#ecap

[13] Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. n.d. "REVIVE! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education (OONE) Program for the Commonwealth of Virginia - Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services." Https://Dbhds.virginia.gov/. https://dbhds.virginia.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/revive/.

Whereas, The Greek organizations of James Madison University often have executive officer positions for the specific purpose of each chapter's health and wellness, AND;

Whereas, These chapter officer positions are uniquely situated to manage health and safety concerns compared to other student clubs and organizations, AND;

Whereas, Members of Greek organizations represent approximately 5,000 undergraduate students[14], nearly 25% of the total student body of James Madison University[15], AND;

Whereas, Individuals in the Commonwealth of Virginia are immune from arrest or prosecution for drug or alcohol-related crimes when experiencing or reporting an overdose and seeking emergency medical attention through the Virginia Overdose Amnesty statute[16], AND;

Whereas, Individuals who provide emergency or resuscitative treatment in good faith are protected from legal consequences through the *Virginia Good Samaritan Law*[17];

---

[14] *About Fraternity & Sorority Life - JMU*. (2024). James Madison University. Retrieved February 26, 2024, from https://www.jmu.edu/osl/fsl/about/index.shtml
[15] James Madison University. (n.d.). *Facts and Figures - JMU*. James Madison University. Retrieved February 26, 2024, from https://www.jmu.edu/about/fact-and-figures.shtml
[16] *§ 18.2-251.03. Arrest and prosecution when experiencing or reporting overdoses*. (n.d.). Virginia Law. Retrieved February 26, 2024, from https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter7/section18.2-251.03/
[17] *Virginia Good Samaritan Law — Purple Health and Safety*. (n.d.). Purple Health and Safety. Retrieved February 26, 2024, from https://www.purplehs.com/virginia-good-samaritan-law#virginia-code

Student Government Association
of James Madison University
Harrisonburg, V.A.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Student Senate of James Madison University, That:

The Student Government Association of James Madison University requests that the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the Center for Multicultural Student Services of James Madison University work alongside their constituent Greek Councils to offer greater opportunities for Naloxone training. The Student Government Association requests that the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council, and the Inter-Cultural Greek Council require all member organizations to have an officer complete a comprehensive overdose training course to remain in good standing as a member of their respective councils.

Additionally, the Student Government Association urges both university administrative bodies to assist each council in the development of a Risk Management Council to bring together Risk Management officers from each constituent organization; the focus being a more comprehensive and collaborative approach to risk management through the sharing of best practices.

Student Government Association
of James Madison University
HARRISONBURG, V.A.

This Bill of Opinion is to be sent to the following:

I. Robert Marias, *Director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life*

II. E. Valarie Ghant, *Director of the Center for Multicultural Student Services*

III. Francesgladys Pulido, *The Coordinator of the Inter-Cultural Greek Council*

IV. Dr. Jen Grossman Leopard, *Director of Student Life*

V. The Chapter President and Advisor of record for all Inter-Cultural Greek Council Member Organizations

VI. The Chapter President, Chapter Vice President of Risk Management, and Advisor of record for all Interfraternity Council Member Organizations

VII. The Chapter President, Chapter Vice President of Risk Management, and Advisor of record for all Panhellenic Council Member Organizations

VIII. Chandler Bagwell, *President of the Inter-Cultural Greek Council*

IX. Drew Lydic, *President of the Interfraternity Council*

X. Cassie Thompson, *President of the Panhellenic Council*