What is Narcan?
Narcan is a generic prescription drug that reverses opiate drug overdoses, such as heroin, methadone, or OxyContin. It is:
• **Safe**: Narcan cannot be abused, and has no effect on a non-opioid user. It has the same level of regulation as prescription ibuprofen, and has significantly less danger of side effects. It is not a controlled substance.
• **Easy to administer**: Narcan is usually injected into a muscle. Simple training—like education provided to EpiPen users—is required to administer Narcan.
• **Low-cost**: Less than $2 per dose.

2009 Supporters:
• Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine
• Illinois Nurses Association
• Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association
• Illinois Department of Human Services - Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA)

2009 Opponents: NONE

Five states have expanded Narcan prescription: California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and New York.

Narcan prescription does not encourage drug use. Recent research found that individuals trained to administer Narcan reduced their heroin use six months later (Seal et al., 2005).

A Chicago-based Narcan prescription program has saved more than 1,000 lives since 2001. Fatal drug overdoses are now at an 11-year low in Cook County, thanks to this program. More lives could be saved by increasing the number of similar programs across the state.

The bill will prevent drug overdoses and save lives by:
• Requiring providers to **give patients information about safe overdose reversal** when prescribing Narcan.
• **Protecting providers from disciplinary action for prescribing Narcan** to patients who have received information and are capable of administering the medication in an emergency.
• **Permitting individuals to administer Narcan in an emergency**, if they have received information above from providers. The bill **protects individuals from civil or criminal prosecution** for practicing medicine without a license.

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