



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR

Mr. Mike Faulk, President  
Georgia Board of Pharmacy

Mr. Faulk:

As you know, the state of Georgia and the country as a whole are currently experiencing an opioid abuse epidemic that has grown to vast proportions. In the fight against this trend, naloxone has come to be considered an important and life-saving tool in treating opioid overdoses. As such, the state of Georgia has previously enacted a measure to place this drug in the hands of first responders and other entities who regularly encounter overdoses as they are occurring. I write to you today to ask for the State Board of Pharmacy to place another tool into the hands of Georgians who are both firsthand witnesses and victims of opioid overdose by passing an emergency rule under O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(b) removing naloxone from the dangerous drug list pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-13-71(e) and rescheduling the drug as a Schedule V exempt drug while conditioning its dispense upon a standing order issued by the commissioner of the Department of Public Health.<sup>1</sup>

In evaluating the factors for removing Naloxone from the dangerous drug list as required by O.C.G.A. § 16-13-71(e) I am sure that you will find that no potential for overdose, abuse, nor dependence exists for naloxone and that similarly Naloxone has no pharmacological activity in the absence of opioids or other opioid antagonists according to the large volume of research that exists regarding the drug.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, to the extent any other factors are met, I am confident you will find that the benefits of deletion in order to put this life-saving drug into the hands of those in need far outweigh the risks maintaining the drug on the dangerous drugs list.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your service to our state.

Respectfully,

Governor Nathan Deal

cc: Tanja Battle, Executive Director, Georgia Board of Pharmacy

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<sup>1</sup> Authority for this action can be found in O.C.G.A § 26-4-28(a)(17) (granting ability to reschedule drugs); O.C.G.A. § 16-13-29.2 (permitting Board to exempt schedule V substances from prescription).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g. Daniel Kim, Kevin Irwin, Kaveh Khoshnood, Am. J. Public Health 99(3): 402-07.