



**House Health & Government Operations Committee**  
**March 15, 2023**  
**House Bill 317**  
**Overdose Awareness Day - Support**

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**2021 - 2023**

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*Josh Grollmes, MS*  
Serenity Health  
JGrollmes@serenityllc.net

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*Melissa Vail, LCPC*  
Sinai Hospital Addictions  
Recovery Program (SHARP)  
MAVail@lifebridgehealth.org

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*Babak Imanoel, D.O.*  
Northern Parkway Treatment  
Services, BH Health Services  
BabakImanoel@gmail.com

**National AATOD Liaison**

*Kenneth Stoller, MD*  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
The Broadway Center  
KStolle@jhmi.edu

**Immediate Past President**

*Vickie Walters, LCSW-C*  
IBR/REACH Health Services  
VWalters@ibrinc.org

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) represents over 65 healthcare organizations across Maryland that provide and promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction.

August 31<sup>st</sup> is now recognized as Overdose Awareness Day around the world. Events are held that day in cities and towns all over the world in remembrance of those lost to overdoses. Awareness days are opportunities for families, community groups, employers, schools, and local officials to conduct educational and advocacy events to promote prevention and policies that create greater access to treatment, harm reduction services, and recovery supports.

These events are also intended to reduce the stigma associated with the disease. Overdoses largely occur with the use of opioids and stigma against the use of medication in the treatment of opioid use disorders results in lack of access to opioid agonist therapy, a reduced willingness to receive treatment, and is a significant barrier to recovery.

Overdose Awareness Day sheds light on not only the devastating impacts of substance use disorders to individuals, but also to the burden on society. It also assists in decreasing the stigma related to the use of medications in the treatment of opioid use disorder. For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 317.



c/o IBR/REACH Health Services  
2104 Maryland Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21218



(410) 752-6080



[www.matod.org](http://www.matod.org)

*MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.*