



House Bill 317 - Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs – Discharge of Patients and Referral Services – Standards

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 15, 2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Evolve Life Centers program provides a wide range of clinically intensive treatment services, including, Partial Hospitalization, Intensive Outpatient, Outpatient, Mental Health, Medium Intensity Residential Treatment, Low Intensity Residential Treatment, Recovery Housing and DUI Education through our 12 plus locations throughout Pasadena and the surrounding area in Anne Arundel County, MD.

HB317 would require the Governor annually to proclaim August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day. This legislation is crucial in raising awareness about the devastating impact of drug overdoses and the need for greater prevention and treatment efforts. Overdose deaths have reached epidemic proportions in our country, and Maryland has not been immune to this crisis. Data from 2021 shows that Maryland saw an increase in opioid and fentanyl-related deaths in 2021. Data spanning from January through September, show that opioid-related deaths increased by 2.09% from 1,865 in 2020 to 1,904 in 2021, and fentanyl-related deaths increased by 3%. Every one of those lives was someone's mother, father, brother, sister, child, cousin or friend. The losses are felt in the families and the communities where they lived and have changed the face of the future for those who knew them.

Therefore, we believe officially designating August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day in Maryland would provide a powerful opportunity for our community to come together and remember those we have lost, while also raising awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of seeking help when it is needed. The day has been recognized globally since 2001, and it is now observed in more than 40 countries. This is why Evolve Life Center has hosted an annual event on Overdose Awareness day for the past five years in Maryland, offering free skydiving for recovered citizens and their families.

This is a great opportunity for the state to prioritize educating the public about the many resources available to those struggling with addiction, and to promote efforts to prevent overdoses from happening in the first place. At Evolve Life Center's we believe that raising awareness is an important step towards addressing the opioid epidemic and reducing the number of overdose deaths in our community.

For these reasons, Evolve Life Centers politely asks for a favorable report on HB317.

For more information call or email:

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