



## OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Opioid Response

March 15, 2023

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 317 - Overdose Awareness Day

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

The Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill 317.

Overdose Awareness Day remembers those lost to overdoses, and increases awareness of substance use disorders. This day is observed each year, leading into September, which is Recovery Month. An official proclamation of August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day would emphasize Maryland's commitment to addressing the issue of substance use and overdose in our communities. There is no fiscal impact associated with this legislation.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Teresa Heath, OOCC Deputy Director at [teresa.heath@maryland.gov](mailto:teresa.heath@maryland.gov) or (443) 381-9289.

Sincerely,

Emily Keller  
Special Secretary of Opioid Response