

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

February 21, 2024

Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB801 - Correctional Services - Medication-Assisted Treatment - **Favorable with Amendments**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) respectfully supports Senate Bill 801 - Correctional Services - Medication-Assisted Treatment, with an amendment to require local correctional facilities to offer all FDA-approved forms of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

SB801 seeks to repeal the requirement that each local correctional facility make available at least one formulation of each FDA-approved full opioid agonist, partial opioid agonist, and long-acting opioid antagonist used for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). According to the [American Society of Addictions Medicine](#), "all FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder should be available to all patients. Clinicians should consider the patient's preferences, past treatment history, current state of illness, and treatment setting when deciding between the use of methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone."¹

Furthermore, the [Bureau of Justice Assistance Guidelines for Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails](#) states, "Buprenorphine and methadone are first-line treatments for opioid withdrawal and OUD." The guidelines continue to say, "Policy decisions disallowing or disincentivizing FDA-approved medications for opioid withdrawal or OUD are not clinically appropriate."²

Medications for opioid use disorder are a critical tool in combating the opioid crisis in Maryland. Equipping local correctional facilities to provide this care will improve public safety and public health. GOCPP strongly urges a favorable report on SB801 with the proposed amendment to ensure Maryland jails meet the standard of care for the treatment of individuals with opioid use disorder.

For more information, please contact Brandi Cahn, Assistant Director of Justice Reinvestment, Brandi.Cahn1@maryland.gov.

¹ American Society of Addictions Medicine. (2020). National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder. White et al.

² Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2023). Guidelines for Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails.