



Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow

Four States, One Region, Infinite Possibilities

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Dennis Feldman
Chairman
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 1099 – Emergency Services - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

I write in support of the best practice described in Senate Bill 1099 to increase access to FDA approved overdose reversal medications and co-locate them near the Automated External Defibrillators in public buildings.

Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow (SMART) is a non-profit group that supports Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware on legislative and policy issues affecting the Mid-Atlantic Region. SMART has 15 working groups comprised of industry and community leaders across the 4 states in healthcare, veteran's issues, and workforce development. The opioid epidemic remains the priority of the Healthcare Working Group and working for consistency between federal guidelines and state policy.

We are gravely concerned about the on-going opioid overdose epidemic in the United States, now resulting in an average 130 deaths daily according to Centers for Disease Control (CDC). More than 75% of these take place outside medical settings, with the majority of these (54%) taking place in homes. Our 4 states are among the most impacted. Not only are these losses unnecessary, there are enormous direct and indirect costs to families, healthcare systems, employers and society that may be greatly mitigated through existing channels.

On December 21, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the historic step to recommend that every federal facility across the nation has lifesaving overdose reversal medications like naloxone on site. According to Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, "we have worked to make overdose reversal medication more accessible and available than ever before. These lifesaving medications should be as readily available as fire extinguishers or defibrillators in all public spaces, from schools, to housing communities, to restaurants, retail, and other businesses."

Senate Bill 1099 will help to ensure Marylanders have expanded access to ensure overdose reversal medications approved for community use are readily available to save a life.

SMART supports Senator Will Smith's bipartisan bill, SB 1099, with amendments for FDA approved opioid overdose reversal drugs approved for community use and to expand the location beyond the AED and requests your favorable consideration of this important life-saving legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert Carullo
SMART Executive Director
bcarullo@smartstates.com

Deborah Burrell
SMART Board Member, Maryland
dburrell@burrellig.com