



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

SB 1099 Emergency Services - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings

Education, Energy & Environment Committee March 1, 2024

SUPPORT

Despite all of our efforts, the alarming increase in opioid overdose deaths is still worsening year over year. In 2021, there were more than 80 000 overdose deaths in the US, up 24% from 2020.

Naloxone distribution has been consistently found, in published peer reviewed studies, to be one of the most effective means available to prevent overdose deaths.

This has led the MD Department of Health to prioritize naloxone distribution in addiction treatment settings through the Overdose Response Program. Some local jurisdictions have made naloxone available **free in vending machines**, such as in Baltimore County, and are looking to expand this further. **The goal is to use any available means to get naloxone into the hands of people who may be able to use it.**

Keeping naloxone with defibrillators will make it much more available. People will come to learn that naloxone is available in public buildings, and will know how to find it. **It is likely to be used much more often than defibrillators to save a life.**

We urge a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, board certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine.