



Senate Finance Committee

February 20, 2024

Senate Bill 408

Public Health - Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Standing Orders

Letter of Information

NCADD-Maryland wishes to express its concerns about the unintended consequences of Senate Bill 408.

This Committee has been a strong proponent of open access to opioid overdose reversal medications over the years. We are grateful for that support. While we favor consumer choice, we believe this bill will require the Maryland Department of Health to purchase all formulations and brands of overdose reversal products. MDH supplies hundreds of Overdose Response Programs (ORPs) with naloxone products for free. These products are then distributed as widely as possible to people in the community who live with, work with, and love people who are at risk of overdosing.

We are concerned that this bill will put MDH in the position of having to spend already stretched dollars for an ever-increasing array of overdose reversal medications. We are also concerned that this would create a logistical burden for ORPs if they would need to either have on hand or know where to refer someone to a formulation or brand requested.

If the Committee decides to move forward with this bill, we would hope that its reach would be limited to pharmacies and not apply to MDH and the ORPs who work to save people's lives every day.