



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 14, 2024

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

RE: House Bill 295 - Overdose Awareness Day - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) and Maryland's Office of Overdose Response respectfully submit this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 295 – Overdose Awareness Day. HB 295 will require the Governor to annually announce August 31st each year as Overdose Awareness day.

Overdose Awareness Day remembers those lost to overdoses and increases awareness of substance use disorders. This day is observed each year across the globe, 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 and would honor the many Marylanders who have died of an overdose.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response