



February 14, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building – 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – Senate Bill 408: Public Health - Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Standing Orders

Dear Chairman Beidle and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS support Senate Bill 408: Public Health - Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Standing Orders (SB 408). Opioid overdose reversal drugs (OORDs) are life-saving medications that counteract the effects of opioids like heroin and fentanyl. OORDs restore normal breathing to an individual who has overdosed and thus prevent death. An individual can administer an OORD through three formulations: intramuscularly, intravenously, and intranasally.

§13–3106 of the Maryland Health General Article allows for a standing order for OORDs. SB 408 wisely takes the next step and allows individuals who will benefit from or administer an OORD approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to choose which formulation works best for them.

Therefore, for all the reasons above, MPS/WPS ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 408. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee