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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg
Before the Finance Committee
In Support of
House Bill 722

Maryland Department of Health – Report on Oversight of Substance Use Disorder
Treatment Programs and Recovery Residences

Dear Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Antonio Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

Maryland, particularly Baltimore, has been ravaged by the opioid epidemic. Those with addictions consistently struggle to access appropriate and effective treatment programs. The recent New York Times/Baltimore Banner joint investigation into the deplorable conditions at PHA Healthcare facilities, where patients consistently relapsed and died of overdoses in deteriorated housing, underscored an urgent need to optimize the State’s oversight of addiction treatment programs.

House Bill 722 would require the Maryland Department of Health to issue reports on or before December 1st, 2025 and December 1st, 2026 to the relevant subject matter and budget committees. These reports would analyze whether revisions to COMAR 10.63 and other Department changes are preventing events like those at PHA Healthcare from occurring there or elsewhere.

We must do substantially more to address the opioid epidemic by prioritizing accountability of the Department of Health as they themselves look to ensure sufficient accountability of the treatment programs essential to fighting this epidemic.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 19