



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 13, 2025

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

RE: House Bill 690 - Overdose Awareness Day - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 690– Overdose Awareness Day. HB 690 will require the Governor to annually announce August 31st each year as Overdose Awareness day.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Maryland reported approximately 2,800 drug overdose deaths in the 12 month period ending in June 2024. Nationally, provisional data indicates that approximately 94,000 overdose deaths occurred in the 12-month period ending in June 2024. This data demonstrates that the impact of overdose is far-reaching and impacts all communities across the State.

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 Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary