

HB1485_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1485 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Health - Crisis Response System - Resources for Family Members and Trauma-Informed Care Training (Tiarra's Law)

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/1485, Public Health - Crisis Response System - Resources for Family Members and Trauma-Informed Care Training (Tiarra's Law)

On May 17, 2020, Tiarra Brown, a Maryland resident living with sickle cell disease, died following an overdose after developing a dependence on prescription opioids that had been prescribed to manage her chronic pain. Based on the circumstances surrounding this death, it has been determined that a structured framework is needed to train first responders, emergency medical service personnel, behavioral health providers, and core service agencies to promote consistent, compassionate, and culturally responsive practices in their engagement with family members. In response to these circumstances, overdose and substance use disorder community partners assessed these events and developed parameters intended to prevent further systemic failures.

This bill meets this moment by requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop a certain pamphlet relating to State and national crisis support resources; requiring certain health care providers and representatives of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to give the pamphlet to an individual under certain circumstances; and requiring the Department to conduct a review of certain trauma-informed care training.

Maryland can and should do better to ensure that every resident has the highest level of care possible wherever and whenever the health care system is engaged with its residents.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1485.