

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building 6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 1485 – Public Health – Crisis Response System – Resources for Family Members and Trauma-Informed Care Training (Tiarra's Law)

Dear Chair Bagnall,

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) HB 1485 – Public Health – Crisis Response System – Resources for Family Members and Trauma-Informed Care Training (Tiarra's Law).

HB 1485 requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop a pamphlet outlining state and national crisis support resources and to conduct a review of trauma-informed care training. The bill mandates that, under certain circumstances, specified health care providers and representatives of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner are required to provide this pamphlet to an individual upon request or when there is a reasonable connection to a death, overdose, or a behavioral health crisis response.

MOOR supports the intent of this bill to provide vital information about Maryland's Crisis Response System to individuals impacted by death, overdose, or a behavioral health crisis. The pamphlet would provide information about the State and National 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and behavioral health programs and resources provided by the state via the Crisis Response Program.

Bereavement is associated with increased risk for adverse physical and behavioral health outcomes.¹ People mourning the loss of a loved one to an overdose are vulnerable and need support, and information about the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and state resources for supportive counseling

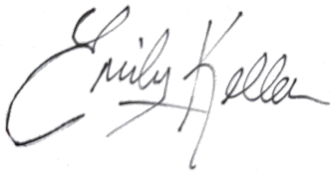
¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4119479/>

provide an opportunity for people to get the help they need. Pamphlets and printed materials are cost-effective tools for health communication and offer people the opportunity to look back at critical information when they need it.² This information can assist individuals in identifying resources to help them heal from the trauma of losing a loved one to an overdose. People who recently experienced an overdose will also benefit from receiving the pamphlet, as the Crisis Response System offers resources to help with linkages to care.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Benjamin Fraifeld, Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy at MOOR, 443-346-3013.

Sincerely,

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emily" and last name "Keller" clearly distinguishable.

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response

²https://ascopubs.org/doi/10.1200/OP-25-00739?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20%20pubmed