



**Daniel Carl Torsch
Foundation**

New day. New beginning.

Date: February 26, 2025

Bill Number: HB 1485

Position: Favorable

Public Health - Crisis Response System - Resources for Family Members and Trauma-Informed Care Training
(Tiarra's Law)

To: Members of Maryland's House Health Committee

I am writing in favor on HB 1485 that would require the Maryland Department of Health to develop a pamphlet that clearly explains State and national crisis support resources, such as the 9-8-8 Suicide line and other behavioral health crisis services. The bill would require health care providers and representatives of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to provide this pamphlet to individuals in connection with an overdose, behavioral health crisis response, or upon request.

1. Families Affected by Crisis Need Information and Support

When someone experiences a crisis — such as a non-fatal overdose, a suicide attempt, or the tragic death of a loved one — families and caregivers are often left overwhelmed, confused, and without clear guidance on where to get help. And many feel their loved ones continue to have stigma placed on their head, even in the afterlife. Current practices vary, and many individuals report receiving little more than bureaucratic paperwork rather than meaningful information and support. Providing a standard pamphlet with clear, actionable information about crisis resources can bridge that gap and help people connect with lifesaving services and supports.

2. Reducing Stigma and Trauma Through Compassionate Response

The bill's preamble acknowledges that stigma around substance use and behavioral health crises can make encounters with first responders even more traumatic for families. A consistent, compassionate approach — beginning with clear information delivery — helps reduce stigma and promotes healing. Ensuring that medical examiners and health care providers share these resources reinforces the message that support is available and valued.

3. Aligns With Broader Public Health Goals

This bill complements ongoing state efforts to address behavioral health and overdose issues, thus showing a commitment to expanding access to crisis support services.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable report on HB 1485**.

Toni Torsch, Director

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