

HB 422 Opioid Restitution Fund - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

House Appropriations Committee Hearing February 27, 2020

SUPPORT

MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is a vital component of understanding and combatting the substance use disorder epidemic that we are facing in the state of Maryland. The unprecedented volume of autopsies due to the opioid epidemic has caused a significant degree of strain on one of the key state agencies that provides a lens into the lives of the deceased to prevent future deaths.

The standardized quality of the facility, its staff, and administration is one of the best in the country. The ability for the OCME to rapidly complete and fully process autopsies of decedents from drug and alcohol related deaths is a key component in the approach to fight this epidemic.

Allowing the opioid restitution fund to support the work of the OCME is a key pillar in the support of public health professionals and healthcare providers to better understand how to prevent and treat substance use disorders in order to avoid future deaths.
