



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 279

Title: Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program

Hearing Date: January 26, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 279 – Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program*. This bill would establish an “Overdose and Infection Disease Program” to offer program services in areas with a high incidence of drug use.

As the number of opioid overdoses increase each year, MNA continues to be very supportive of efforts to address this crisis. This includes having a broad strategy as envisioned by this legislation. MNA supports this endeavor because safe consumption sites provide an array of services in addition to preventing overdoses and deaths due to opioids. This includes the provision of primary health care services including wound care; providing sterile syringes and testing for HIV and Hepatitis C in order to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases; and connecting individuals to substance use treatment.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.