

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG

Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Government Operations and
Health Facilities Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Appropriations Committee

In Support of House Bill 1086

Opioid Restitution Fund – Appropriation of Settlement Funds and Grant Program

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

For over two decades, opioid manufacturers unleashed a scourge of addictive and deadly pills on the citizens of Maryland and the rest of the country. After years of impunity, some opioid manufacturers are facing financial accountability in the form of recent court settlements. These funds need to be allocated with an eye towards remedying the harms opioids have created.

Maryland's maximum share of the \$26 billion-dollar national settlement agreement is 2.11%, or approximately \$492 million. The state obtained a higher share than its population would indicate because the opioid crisis has hit Marylanders harder than it has residents of other states.

85% of this money must be used for a variety of authorized evidence-based or evidence-informed opioids abatement programs, such as programs providing treatment for substance use disorders and overdose reversal medicines, among numerous other options. House Bill 1086 would align our law with the federal requirements so that we can receive all of the \$492 million aid that we are eligible for.

Last year, the General Assembly enacted the Opioid Restitution Fund. The fund is designed to take in settlement revenues from opioid manufacturers and other entities associated with opioid production and distribution. These revenues are held by the fund and allocated to designated purposes that seek to ease the burdens of opioid addiction on individuals and communities.

House Bill 1086 would codify the agreement that has since been reached regarding how revenues that come into the Opioid Restitution Fund will be distributed throughout Maryland.

I request a favorable report on this bill.

February 22, 2022