



March 22, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair
House Health and Government Operations
Committee
Maryland General Assembly
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Senator
Maryland General Assembly
104 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Samuel I. Rosenberg
Delegate
Maryland General Assembly
365 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society and American Medical Association support for Senate Bill 419 and House Bill 1086

Dear Chairs Kelley and Pendergrass, Senator Feldman, and Delegate Rosenberg:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), we write in support of Senate Bill (S.B.) 419 and House Bill (H.B.) 1086. The AMA and MedChi support S.B. 419 and H.B. 1086 because both bills wisely ensure that specific settlement funds received by the state from opioid-related litigation are protected by Maryland's Opioid Restitution Fund, a non-lapsing fund that focuses on overdose prevention and treatment. We further support S.B. 419 and H.B. 1086 because they contain provisions to provide a clear process and authority for the allocation and distribution of funds.

The people of Maryland, like citizens in every other state in the nation, have lost too many family members and loved ones to the drug overdose epidemic. As Maryland stands to receive tens of millions of dollars to mitigate the harms from opioid-related overdose and death, the clarity brought by S.B. 419 and H.B. 1086 will help ensure that settlement funds can be equitably distributed throughout the state to help build treatment infrastructure and other efforts to save lives. This is critical because—as reported by the Maryland Department of Health—illicitly manufactured fentanyl is an increasing source of mortality. (See https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Documents/Overdose/Annual_2020_Drug_Intox_Report.pdf)

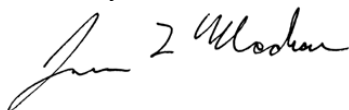
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By making sure the funds from the recent settlement with McKesson Corporation, Amerisource Bergen, Cardinal Health, and others are specifically protected by Maryland's opioid abatement law, Maryland can address the changing epidemic and save lives.

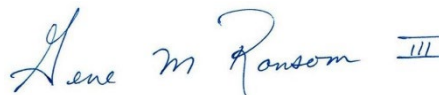
We urge a "Yes" vote on S.B. 419 and H.B. 1086. Thank you for your leadership.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD
CEO and Executive Vice President
American Medical Association



Gene Ransom
CEO and Executive Director
MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society