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BILL NO.: **House Bill 1086**

TITLE: Opioid Restitution Fund - Appropriation of Settlement Funds and Grant Program

SPONSOR: Delegate Rosenberg

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 22, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1086 – Opioid Restitution Fund - Appropriation of Settlement Funds and Grant Program. This legislation would require funds from the Opioid Restitution Fund be disbursed in accordance with the State-Subdivision Agreement of January 21, 2022.

Last year, the State of Maryland and local jurisdictions that have been impacted by the ongoing opioid crisis won a hard-fought legal battle to hold the corporations responsible accountable. As a result of the judgement, plaintiffs won a significant settlement to be disbursed to the State and political subdivisions according to the structure of the settlement and determinations made by the State Attorney General. The Opioid Restitution Fund was created to ensure that funds received as a result of the settlement are put towards programs which serve to address the significant damage brought upon residents and communities by the irresponsible conduct of opioid manufacturers. The State-Subdivision Agreement of January 21, 2022 reflects the result of discussions between the State and local jurisdictions to disburse funds in a manner agreed upon by all parties involved.

House Bill 1086 ensures that, when settlement funds are provided by the State, those funds are disseminated according to the agreement reached between the jurisdictions of Maryland and the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1086. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.