

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Maryland Department of Health

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: January 18, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 196 – *Maryland Department of Health – Overdose Report*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 193.

Senate Bill 193 proposes to simplify the statutory language, which describes the information to be evaluated by the Department, in compiling their Overdose Report. The simplification does not decrease or limit the scope of information to be evaluated and will provide greater flexibility in identifying relevant information and data. Senate Bill 193 also extends the requirement to conduct the study and produce an annual Overdose Report for an additional two years.

Given the continuing dramatic increase in the number of overdoses, the production of the Overdose Report provides State Agencies, legislators, health care practitioners, and community advocates with critical information to frame policy initiatives which address overdoses. To that end, MedChi would be supportive of extending the sunset date longer than 2 years if the General Assembly was so inclined. MedChi would also encourage the State to evaluate programs and data from other states related to innovative programs, such as safe injection sites and to include that analysis in their annual report. MedChi urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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