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COUNTY ATTORNEY
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

February 16, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 394 – Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022-Letter of Support

Dear Madam Chair and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County respectfully requests your consideration to vote favorably on SB 394 – Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022.

In 2020, 54 Somerset County residents experienced a non-fatal opioid overdose, and 8 people sadly lost their lives. In 2021, Somerset County Health Department distributed 370 free Naloxone kits to many types of community service providers and businesses, as well as to people who use drugs and their loved ones. We saw a decrease in non-fatal overdoses to 44 in 2021, and a decrease in fatalities to 7. We believe that our ability to provide free Naloxone kits is making a positive impact. Due to the many kinds of Covid-19 restrictions that have been in place, we are having to work even harder now to get Naloxone kits into the hands of the people who need them. At the same time, even more people are overdosing nationwide because of factors related to the pandemic, such as lack of access to treatment and isolation.

To expand free Naloxone distribution capability to local EMS would, in our opinion, be extremely beneficial at this time in our battle to save lives in Somerset County. Therefore, we respectfully ask your favorable consideration regarding SB 394.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ralph D. Taylor' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ralph D. Taylor
County Administrator

Cc: Senator Carozza
Delegate Otto