



Senate Finance Committee
January 27, 2022

Senate Bill 200
**Public Health - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Naloxone Medication Data
Support**

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the pre-existing opioid overdose death fatality crisis has worsened. In Maryland, the number of opioid-related deaths increased by 20% between 2019 and 2020, and preliminary data indicates a continued increase in 2021.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) supports Senate Bill 200 to add the Prescription Drug Monitor Program (PDMP) data regarding the dispensing of naloxone at a pharmacy.

This bill is intended to provide the State a more complete picture of where naloxone, a life-saving drug, is getting out to the community and where it is not. The bill is clear that the data would not be shared with clinical users or investigative users but could be shared in aggregate for public health surveillance/research purposes. The point is to use data to identify where in Maryland the State and local programs need to target the distribution of more naloxone.

While NCADD-Maryland supports the bill, we must recognize the concerns raised by people in the community. People have had the experience where life insurance companies have used medical records showing the prescribing of naloxone to discriminate against them. This has happened to people in Maryland. There is also enough mistrust of government that there are concerns that people simply will not have their prescriptions for naloxone filled if they know the data is being added to a state database.

The fear of discrimination is real and the need to prevent this data from being accessed in a de-identified way is essential. PDMP staff has indicated the Department is committed to work with stakeholders in the development of regulations of this new provision to the PDMP to ensure data privacy.

We urge your support of Senate Bill 200.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.