



**2022 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL:** SB 394 – Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022

**COMMITTEE:** House – Health and Governmental Operations Committee

**POSITION:** Letter of Support As Amended

**BILL ANALYSIS:** SB 394 authorizes certain emergency medical services providers to offer opioid overdose reversal drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to individuals who received treatment for a nonfatal drug overdose or were evaluated by a crisis evaluation team, requires certain community services programs, certain private and public entities, and hospitals to have a protocol to offer overdose reversal drugs free of charge to certain individuals under certain circumstances and requires the Department to purchase and provide these products to certain providers.

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) acknowledges the effectiveness of opioid overdose reversal drugs in preventing fatal opioid overdoses across the state of Maryland. MACHO had raised concerns about what happens if current federal funding ends at some point in the future as the original language of this bill placed the cost burden of opioid overdose reversal drugs on local health departments (LHDs) and other non-profit agencies providing services for at-risk individuals. Local health departments do not have the financial means to independently finance such a program.

Now that SB 394 has been amended to clarify that if federal funding ends, the Maryland Department of Health will assume financial responsibility for any opioid overdose reversal drugs that LHDs are required to distribute under this bill, MACHO is able to provide this letter of support as amended.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) cites studies linking increases in community access to opioid overdose reversal drugs with decreases in overdose deaths. Greater availability of opioid overdose reversal drugs is not associated with an increase in opioid use.<sup>1</sup> In a position statement, ASAM encourages the elimination of barriers to distribution of opioid overdose reversal drugs to those at risk of overdose and people close to them. SB 394 furthers the goal of reducing fatal opioid overdoses.

2020 and 2021 produced the highest numbers of overdose deaths in state history. SB 394 will strengthen one important component of a multi-layered strategy to accelerate progress in the statewide efforts to curb potentially preventable fatalities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of support as amended for SB 394. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [рмаiorа1@jhu.edu](mailto:рмаiorа1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*

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615 North Wolfe Street, Room E 2530 // Baltimore, Maryland 21205 // 410-937-1433

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/public-policy-statements/use-of-naloxone-for-the-prevention-of-opioid-overdose-deaths-final.pdf>