

MATOD - 2023 SB 138 FAV - Overdose Awareness Day -

Uploaded by: Joshua Grollmes

Position: FAV



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Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee March 3, 2023 Senate Bill 138 Overdose Awareness Day - Support

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) represents over 65 healthcare organizations across Maryland that provide and promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction.

August 31st is now recognized as Overdose Awareness Day around the world. Events are held that day in cities and towns all over the world in remembrance of those lost to overdoses. Awareness days are opportunities for families, community groups, employers, schools, and local officials to conduct educational and advocacy events to promote prevention and policies that create greater access to treatment, harm reduction services, and recovery supports.

These events are also intended to reduce the stigma associated with the disease. Overdoses largely occur with the use of opioids and stigma against the use of medication in the treatment of opioid use disorders results in lack of access to opioid agonist therapy, a reduced willingness to receive treatment, and is a significant barrier to recovery.

Overdose Awareness Day sheds light on not only the devastating impacts of substance use disorders to individuals, but also to the burden on society. It also assists in decreasing the stigma related to the use of medications in the treatment of opioid use disorder. For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 138.

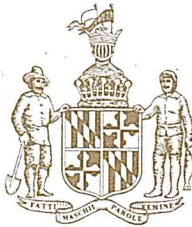
MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.

Jackson2023SB138Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 138

***GENERAL PROVISIONS – COMMEMORATIVE DAYS –
OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY***

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 3, 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 138 is a very straightforward bill that simply requires the Governor to annually proclaim August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day.

Each year Maryland loses thousands of residents to drug overdoses and drug-related death. The purpose of this legislation is to clearly enshrine August 31st as a date to recognize those deaths and this epidemic and to encourage those currently suffering to seek support and treatment.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement, I have seen firsthand the impact that drug addiction can have on individuals and to their loved ones. Reducing the stigma attached to seeking treatment for addiction would save countless lives. I am hopeful that declaring August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day would be a means to reduce said stigma and to quell the suffering of those who are addicted and those who love them.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 138.

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0138.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

March 3rd, 2023

SB 138
Overdose Awareness Day

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 138 requires the Governor annually to proclaim August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day.

Behavioral health issues, including substance use disorders, are public health challenges that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country. Senate Bill 138 seeks to shed the light on an issue that our most vulnerable populations are facing due to the opioid epidemic.

The Catholic Church through its parishes, charities and other ministries reaches out pastorally to those struggling with mental illness. Because the Catholic faith embraces an integrated view of the human person as both corporeal and spiritual, we welcome the sciences as one pathway to knowledge of the human person. Pope St. John Paul II said "*Whoever suffers from mental illness always bears God's image and likeness in themselves, as does every human being. In addition, they always have the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such.*"

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 138.

NCADD-MD - 2023 SB 138 FAV - Overdose Awareness Da

Uploaded by: Nancy Rosen-Cohen

Position: FAV



Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
March 3, 2023

Senate Bill 138
Overdose Awareness Day

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 138. August 31st has been recognized as Overdose Awareness Day around the world since 2001. Events are held that day in cities and towns all over the globe, in remembrance of those lost to overdoses.

Awareness days are opportunities for community groups, employers, schools, and local officials to conduct educational and advocacy events to promote prevention and policies that create greater access to treatment, harm reduction services, and recovery supports. These events are also intended to reduce the stigma associated with the disease and help those still grieving find comfort among those who have also lost loved one.

NCADD-Maryland believes that more attention brought to this tragic crisis that continues to worsen is worthwhile. We urge your support of Senate Bill 138.

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.

National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence – Maryland Chapter
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www.ncaddmaryland.org

SB138 FAV testimony Mayor Mahoney.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrick Mahoney

Position: FAV



Good Afternoon Honorable Senators,

SB138 - Favorable

I am Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney testifying on behalf of the residents and Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland to express our support for Senate Bill 138 recognizing August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day in the state in recognition of family and friends lost to drug overdoses.

In our small town of Chesapeake Beach, there have been more than 98 reported overdoses and 17 deaths attributed to Opioid Use Disorder since 2016, devastating families. Since January of 2017, I, the Town Council, residents of Chesapeake Beach, and community partners, through our Twin Beach Opioid Abuse Awareness Coalition chaired by Town Councilman Pardieck, have worked diligently to raise addiction awareness with our residents, connect those in need with prevention, recovery and support resources, reduce the shame surrounding this disorder, and most importantly -- help save lives. Outreach and education to connect people with resources and reduce stigma work. In 2016, Chesapeake Beach had 14 non-fatal overdoses and 5 fatal overdoses; in 2022 we had 1 nonfatal overdose and 1 fatal overdose. Yet more needs to be done, especially to reduce the stigma surrounding addiction so the people afflicted with this disease and their family members seek and get the support they need. And SB138 is a step in the right direction.

This bill provides several important messages from our state leaders to our residents. They are: 1) drug addiction is a disease, not a character flaw; 2) those who have died from this affliction, and those who continue to struggle with addiction and their families are valued by us; and 3) overdose death is preventable.

For these reasons we support SB138 and encourage you to support it as well.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Mahoney

Mayor, Chesapeake Beach

MDDCSAM - 2023 SB 138 FAV - Overdose Awareness Day

Uploaded by: Scott Whetsell

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 138 - Overdose Awareness Day

SUPPORT

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 3, 2023

The Maryland-DC chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (MDDCSAM), whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders, supports Senate Bill 138.

International Overdose Awareness Day was started in 2001 by Sally J. Finn of The Salvation Army in Melbourne, Australia. August 31st is now recognized as Overdose Awareness Day around the world. Events are held that day in cities and towns all over the world in remembrance of those lost to overdoses. Awareness days are opportunities for community groups, employers, schools, and local officials to conduct educational and advocacy events to promote prevention and policies that create greater access to treatment, harm reduction services, and recovery supports.

These events are also intended to reduce the stigma associated with the disease. The impact of reducing stigma is often not realized. It influences everyday attitudes, policy-making, financing care, distribution of access to care, and the delivery of care. Overdoses largely occur with the use of opioids and stigma against the use of medication in the treatment of opioid use disorders results in lack of access to opioid agonist therapy, a reduced willingness to receive treatment, and is a significant barrier to recovery.

Overdose Awareness Day sheds light on not only the devastating impacts of substance use disorders to individuals, but also to the burden on society. Paul Earley, former President of the American Society of Addiction Medicine wrote, "We will continue to advocate for policies that shatter the stigma and discrimination surrounding addiction, expand access to evidence-based care for individuals who are incarcerated or otherwise marginalized, and remove the structural barriers that prevent many Americans from accessing quality addiction treatment."

Awareness is the first step in this process. We respectfully request an favorable report on Senate Bill 138.

3 - SB 138 - OCCC - LOS.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Opioid Response

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 138 - Overdose Awareness Day

Dear Chair Feldman:

The Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 138.

Overdose Awareness Day remembers those lost to overdoses, and increases awareness of substance use disorders. This day is observed each year, leading into September, which is Recovery Month. An official proclamation of August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day would emphasize Maryland's commitment to addressing the issue of substance use and overdose in our communities. There is no fiscal impact associated with this legislation.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Teresa Heath, OOCC Deputy Director at teresa.heath@maryland.gov or (443) 381-9289.

Sincerely,

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Opioid Response