



OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER

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

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Melanie Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 914 - Hospitals – Overdoses – Testing for Fentanyl

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) respectfully submits this letter of support for SB 914. The most recent data suggests that 81.5% of all fatal overdoses are fentanyl-related. Requiring emergency departments to test for the presence of fentanyl in all suspected overdose cases will improve the state's overdose data, as data on nonfatal overdoses can be particularly difficult to collect due in part to the number of overdoses that are reversed by bystanders with naloxone.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Opioid Response