



March 1, 2023

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Committee:

I'm writing today to voice strong support for HB 571 on behalf of BrightView Health. BrightView is a new kind of addiction treatment center, founded on the philosophy of same day access to care for individuals experiencing substance use disorders. Since opening our doors in 2015, BrightView has served over 50,000 individuals experiencing substance use disorders across 85 centers in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Arizona, and most recently, Maryland.

With our experience treating individuals with substance use disorders, we have worked with countless individuals who have achieved stability and remission from opioid use disorder following an overdose experience. To put it frankly, ***individuals cannot move on to a life after of addiction and recover from opioid use disorders if they do not survive the medical emergency of an opioid overdose - these medications must be widely available and accessible to all individuals.*** Access to all forms of FDA approved medications for opioid overdose and reversal should be a vital component of every communities strategy to providing individuals with the tools they need to survive an overdose experience and recover. We strongly support increasing accessibility to all forms of FDA approved opioid overdose reversal medications.

Sincerely,

Emily Harsh, LPC, LICDC

Director of Justice System Outreach