



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 21, 2023

To: The Honorable Melony G. Griffith, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 914 - Hospitals – Overdoses - Testing for Fentanyl

Dear Chair Griffith:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 914.

There is no doubt that the state is still experiencing an opioid crisis. In 2020, the most recent year in which annual opioid overdose death data is available in Maryland, there were 2,518 overdose deaths—2,342 of which were attributed to fentanyl.

Most hospitals screen for fentanyl as part of regular urine toxicology screening process, or are moving in the direction of differentiating fentanyl from other opioids. The hospital field supports the amendments to the legislation adopted by the House. In particular, the field supports the amendments clarifying the use of chemical analyzer equipment rather than rapid tests, as this more accurately describes the equipment used in hospitals.

We ask the Committee to consider the amendments offered by the House sponsor and adopted by the House and urge a favorable report on this important piece of legislation.

For more information, please contact:
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