



OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER

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

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 811 - Hospitals – Overdoses – Testing for Fentanyl

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

The Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) respectfully submits this letter of support for HB811. 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