

**TO:** The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Annie Coble  
Assistant Director, State Affairs

**DATE:** March 2, 2023

**RE:** HB571 OVERDOSE RESPONSE PROGRAM – OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL  
DRUGS – CHOICE OF FORMULATION AND DOSAGE

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Johns Hopkins **supports HB571 Overdose Response Program – Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs – Choice of Formulation and Dosage.** This bill allows providers that receive naloxone from the Maryland Department of Health to choose the formulation or dosage of the drug.

As the Committee is aware, naloxone is an important tool in the fight against the opioid epidemic and should be widely available. Johns Hopkins is the only health system in the state that is designated as an Overdose Response Program (ORP). This allows all of the hospitals in our health system to dispense naloxone at no cost to patients at risk for an opioid overdose at the point of discharge from the emergency departments. In 2021, across all the hospitals, Johns Hopkins distributed 382 naloxone kits. Important to the success of this program is the fact that the naloxone supply is provided by the State at no cost.

Providing options on the formulation and dosage of naloxone allows for flexibility in providing different care for different patient needs. We appreciate that this bill just provides a choice, and not a mandate, that allows us to continue to treat our patients by prioritizing their safety.

For these reasons and more, Johns Hopkins urges a **favorable** report on **HB571**.