



OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER

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

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 1215 – Criminal Procedure – Alcohol and Drug Offenses – Immunities – Limitations

Dear Chair Clippinger:

The Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for HB 1215 – Criminal Law – Alcohol and Drug Offenses- Immunities- Limitations.

This bill criminalizes the experience of an overdose medical emergency by seeking to limit the protections provided by the Good Samaritan Law (Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Procedure §1-210), which protects individuals experiencing or responding to an overdose from criminal and civil liability. The intent of the Good Samaritan Law is to encourage individuals to call 911 when they witness or respond to an overdose. The threat of arrest at or after a medical emergency has been shown to deter people from seeking help, which could lead to greater loss of life to drug overdoses in Maryland.^{1,2}

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

¹ <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2021.103426>

² <https://doi.org/10.1080/08897077.2017.1387213>