

February 21, 2023
Chair Peña-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Re: HB 811 – Favorable

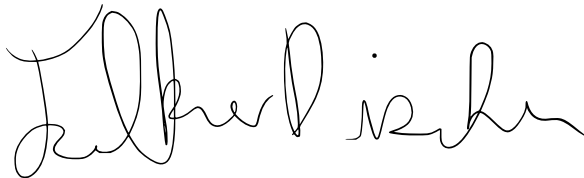
Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the committee:

I am voicing my support for HB811.

Based on the current reality of routine toxicology screening practices in the state of Maryland, incorrect fentanyl overdose data is being reported. In turn this leads to money being wasted and, most importantly, Maryland lives lost. With the passage of HB-811, fentanyl urine toxicology screenings would become a routine standard care practice during opioid screenings. A study showed that only 5% of all urine drug screens in Maryland are being tested for fentanyl, and the screening takes no more time and is usually about 75 cents.

In passing this law, Maryland would join with California as a national pioneer based on California's passage of SB-864. With the passage of this law in California, the state has been able to collect data that correctly reflects the opioid epidemic and therefore implement effective and efficient strategies to meet the need. If Maryland is part of pioneering this standard of care, lives will be saved.

Sincerely,
Falkner Discher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Falkner Discher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.