



## SENATE BILL 1099

### Emergency Services – Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone 2 Co-Location Initiative – Requirements for Public Buildings

**SB 1099- Position:** Support - FAVORABLE

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

Hello, my name is Barbara Zektick, I am testifying today in support of Senate Bill 1099.

I am here on behalf of Maryland Coalition of Families; a statewide nonprofit that served nearly 5,000 families last year with Family Peer Support who had a loved one that struggled with behavioral health challenges, this include substance use disorder. I am here today to represent these caregivers, their voices--who quite frankly, are exhausted and need more support and assurances that there are protections and care for their loved ones, knowing they cannot be with their family member every waking moment.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) defines Addiction as **a primary, chronic disease of brain reward, motivation, memory, and related circuitry**. Dysfunction in these circuits leads to characteristic biological, psychological, social and spiritual manifestations. Chronic diseases are long-lasting conditions that often can be managed but ***not cured***. People living with chronic illnesses manage daily symptoms that affect their quality of life, and experience acute health problems and complications that can shorten their life expectancy. **For people who use opioids, the risk of overdose looms daily.**

A major component of President Biden's National Drug Control Strategy is increasing access to **overdose reversal drugs**. The Overdose Prevention Strategy of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services aims to tackle the overdose problem by **providing greater access** to the entire range of treatment and services, **including overdose reversal medicines**. States have acquired around 9 million naloxone kits and **assisted in reversing over 500,000 overdoses** with the support of federal State Opioid Response grant funds. For the first time ever, naloxone may now be bought over-the-counter at pharmacies and grocery shops all around the nation.

It is time for Maryland to offer greater access and this solution to save lives. We strongly urge a favorable report. Thank you.