



Maryland Addiction Directors Council

Hospitals – Opioid Overdose – Medication Assisted Treatment (SB 1071)

Senate Finance Committee

March 14, 2024

FAVORABLE

Maryland Addiction Directors Council (MADC) represents SUD and Dual Recovery outpatient and residential providers in Maryland. MADC members provide over 2,000 residential beds across the State and advocate for quality SUD and Dual Recovery outpatient and residential treatment as well as evidence-based practices in treatment. MADC providers are at the forefront of the opioid overdose crisis.

MADC is writing in support of SB 1071. With the fentanyl epidemic, lethality has soared, and residential clients come to treatment in tremendous need. Approximately 2,400 people a year die from overdose in Maryland with most of these deaths due to fentanyl overdose. Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for patients presenting at the hospital due to overdose will save lives.

Recent studies conclude that Medication-Assisted Treatment as part of an effective care model is key to client treatment engagement (Stewart, Daily et. al., *Expanding Access to Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders: Findings from the Washington State Hub and Spoke Effort*, 2024) (Hawkins, Malte et. al., *Buprenorphine Receipt and Retention for Opioid Use Disorder following an Initiative to Increase Access in Primary Care*, 2023). MADC strongly supports referral to treatment from hospital care as a key part of an effective care model. MADC providers work with Peer Specialists, Social Workers, and other hospital staff to provide immediate access to treatment and continuation of medication.

The behavioral healthcare system needs every tool available to save lives in the opioid overdose crisis. MADC supports SB 1071 as an important part of this life-saving care. Thank you for considering our views.