



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION
OF CHAIN DRUG STORES

HB411 Public Health - Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Standing Orders
Health and Government Operations Committee
February 21st, 2024

Position: Unfavorable

Background: HB411 would require that an individual be allowed to choose their preferred formulation for an opioid reversal drug under a standing order.

Comments: The Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores (MACDS) does not oppose choice for patients, but the need for and ultimate intent of this legislation is unclear. The existing statewide standing order already allows individuals to choose their preference of opioid reversal medications. We are not opposed to ensuring that choice remains in place outside of the current or future statewide standing orders. Our concern is specific to whether this legislation would, as a result, require that all pharmacies carry all formulations of opioid reversal drugs, which is unclear. MACDS would oppose a mandate requiring that every pharmacy carry every formulation at all times. If that would be the result of this legislation, we would respectfully request an amendment removing that mandate, or clarifying that that is not the case if that is not the intent of this bill.

We hope that the Committee will consider this concern when deliberating on the bill, and we will seek conversation with the sponsors to clarify the intent and can follow up with the Committee should our position change. Thank you for your consideration.