



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Health and Government Operations

Chair: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

February 28, 2024

House Bill 1155: Hospitals - Opioid Overdose - Medication-Assisted Treatment

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), is in SUPPORT of House Bill 1155: Hospitals - Opioid Overdose - Medication-Assisted Treatment

Using the opioid restitution fund to fund this legislative for programs, services, supports, and resources for evidence-based substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, or harm reduction that have the purpose of improving access to medications proven to prevent or reverse an overdose could greatly improve the lives and wellbeing of rural Marylanders.

Ostrach et. al, 2022, "Opioid-related drug overdoses have been rapidly increasing in the United States, especially in rural Southern and Appalachian regions." These increased overdoses require us to take innovative approaches like this to save the lives of those living in these underserved communities. We urge a favorable report.

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
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