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Anne Arundel County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on
Legislative Ethics

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology,
and Biotechnology



The Maryland House of Delegates
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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Monday, February 19, 2024

SUPPORT

HB411/SB408 - Public Health - Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Standing Orders

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chairman Cullison and members of the Health & Government Operations Committee:

HB411 requires a licensed health care provider, when issuing a standing order for an opioid reversal drug, to allow an individual to choose any formulation of any opioid reversal drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. A series of new treatments are reaching the market, beyond the initial overdose reversal treatments that were initially on the market such as Narcan. This is important because Narcan was initially developed for opioids and as this committee knows well, most overdoses are now in response to chemically created products such as fentanyl.

We hear stories of individuals being treated for overdose having to be given multiple overdose reversal treatments because the current potency of the drugs is so much stronger. In fact, the fentanyl on the market today is at least two times more concentrated than it was just over a year ago. This is why new overdose treatments are needed and greater flexibility should be given to the consideration of what product is available.

Thank you for your consideration of HB411 as we continue to seek all treatments possible to save lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nic Kipke'.

Nicholaus R. Kipke