



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 751 – Public Health – Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Fund –Revisions  
- Letter of Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 751– Public Health – Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Fund – Revisions.

SB 751 contains technical updates to the name of the Office of Overdose Response and has several provisions relating to transparency around reporting regarding spending from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) and opioid related settlements. The bill adds supporting community-based recovery organizations as a purpose of funding from Maryland’s ORF. SB 751 and its cross-file in the House, HB 980, have been amended identically.

The Department appreciated the opportunity to work with the Committees and sponsors on amendments for SB 751 that strike the requirement that 25% of funding be used to support community-based recovery organizations and provide greater flexibility regarding the timelines for decisions. The ORF is key to our work to combat the deadly opioid crisis and the Department supports many of the important updates that SB 751 makes to the ORF process.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at 410-260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

cc. Sarah Case-Herron