



February 14, 2024

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
House Health & Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building – Room 241  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – House Bill 411: Public Health - Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Standing Orders

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS/WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS support House Bill 411: Public Health - Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs - Standing Orders (HB 411). Opioid overdose reversal drugs (OORDs) are life-saving medications that counteract the effects of opioids like heroin and fentanyl. OORDs restore normal breathing to an individual who has overdosed and thus prevent death. An individual can administer an OORD through three formulations: intramuscularly, intravenously, and intranasally.

§13–3106 of the Maryland Health General Article allows for a standing order for OORDs. HB 411 wisely takes the next step and allows individuals who will benefit from or administer an OORD approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to choose which formulation works best for them.

Therefore, for all the reasons above, MPS/WPS ask the committee for a favorable report on HB 411. If you have any questions regarding this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at [tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society  
Legislative Action Committee