



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair and
Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 21, 2024

RE: **HB 411 - Public Health – Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs – Standing Orders**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 411. This bill requires standing orders issued by a licensed health care provider to allow individuals to choose any formulation of opioid reversal drug approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

MCPA and MSA are composed of leadership from local law enforcement agencies who protect the safety and well-being of more than 16,000 officers across the state. Our officers are often the first to respond to overdose situations. Officers need the tools to save the lives of those who may be overdosing, but also need to protect themselves from substances that may be laced with fentanyl. In 2022, a deputy sheriff in Indiana collapsed after coming into contact with fentanyl while patting down a suspect. This could easily occur right here in Maryland.

MCPA and MSA are aware of several forms of opioid overdose reversal medications approved by the FDA and believe access to all options could benefit individuals experiencing overdoses and officers in the field. As we work together as a State to address the opioid epidemic, MCPA and MSA believe access should be provided to ALL tools to keep Marylanders and officers alive.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA strongly SUPPORT HB 411 and urge a FAVORABLE report.