



Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response

January 24, 2025

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 0552 - Higher Education - Drug Detection Products - Distribution and Report

Dear Chair Barnes:

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 0552, which aims to require institutions of higher education to make available to students certain drug detection products.

Institutions of higher education are able to register with the Maryland Department of Health to become an Overdose Response Program (ORP) in order to supply these products. ORPs are authorized by MDH to distribute these and other items at no cost. Any organization that becomes an ORP is required to report monthly on the amount of supplies distributed, so adding annual reporting requirements to the legislature would be duplicative.

Additionally, multiple studies have pointed out that the term "abuse" is stigmatizing, and the federal government suggests using alternate language such as "drug use" or "drug misuse".¹

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Benjamin Fraifeld, Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy at MOOR, 443-346-3013.

Sincerely,

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response

1

<https://nida.nih.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/health-professions-education/words-matter-terms-to-use-avoid-when-talking-about-addiction>

