



HB 552-Higher Education-Drug Detection Products-Distribution and Report

Committee: Appropriations

Date:1/31/25

Position: FAV

The Maryland Coalition of Families: Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides family peer support services at no cost to families who have a loved one with a mental health, substance use, or problem gambling disorder. Using their personal experience as parents, caregivers and other loved ones, our staff provide emotional support, resource connection and systems navigation as well as support groups and educational trainings and workshops.

Last year we served nearly 5,000 Families of a loved one with a behavioral health need. 15% of those families have a loved one with substance use and co-occurring disorders. We support this bill for the following reasons.

- House Bill 552 takes a proactive and compassionate approach to harm reduction. By providing these essential tools, higher education institutions can play a vital role in ensuring the health and safety of their student populations on campus. These measures, coupled with educational programs, resources, and the availability of support services, will create a safer campus environment.
- Also, this bill, through its reporting requirements, will gather valuable data to inform future public health strategies and interventions.
- According to the DEA, a single kilogram of fentanyl has the lethal potential to kill half a million people. A mere two milligrams of fentanyl, enough to cover the tip of a pencil, can be fatal. Having these products accessible in these locations and at no charge to students can save lives and reduce the risk of death by overdose.



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