



February 18, 2025

Senate Finance Committee

SB589 - Opioid Restitution Fund - Interactive Dashboard

POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Recovery Housing & Treatment Center Coalition of Maryland (RHTC) submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 589 (SB589), which seeks to establish an interactive dashboard on Opioid Restitution Fund spending to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of opioid settlement funds across the State.

RHTC represents a diverse network of recovery residences, group homes, treatment centers, and essential services that support Maryland's comprehensive continuum of care. Our mission is to educate the public, policymakers, and stakeholders on the critical role that recovery facilities play in the health and well-being of individuals overcoming substance use disorders (SUDs), as well as the broader benefits to our communities and the State.

Maryland, like the rest of the country, has been deeply affected by the opioid crisis. With significant funds flowing into the State through opioid-related settlements, it is imperative that these resources are allocated efficiently and effectively. The interactive dashboard proposed under SB589 will provide real-time, publicly accessible data on how these funds are distributed and spent, ensuring they are directed toward evidence-based recovery and treatment programs.

Many recovery residences and treatment centers continue to struggle with funding gaps, making it difficult to provide stable housing, peer support, and long-term recovery services. By tracking spending priorities and past allocations, the dashboard will help identify gaps in funding and reinforce the need for sustainable investments in long-term recovery infrastructure.

SB589 mandates that counties and municipalities receiving opioid settlement funds provide detailed descriptions of funded initiatives, including performance measures where applicable. This level of transparency will foster trust between policymakers, service providers, and the recovery community by ensuring that settlement funds are being used effectively to address the opioid epidemic rather than diverted elsewhere.



To combat the opioid epidemic effectively, we must utilize data to guide policymaking. The dashboard's integration with existing data on opioid use and overdoses in Maryland will offer insights into treatment and recovery outcomes, ultimately leading to more informed policy decisions at the local and state levels.

As an organization deeply invested in expanding access to recovery housing and treatment services, RHTC urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass SB589. Ensuring that opioid restitution funds are used effectively will strengthen Maryland's recovery infrastructure and help countless individuals rebuild their lives.

We thank the bill's sponsors for their leadership on this important issue and respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 589.

For more information call or email:

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