



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 224 Opioid-Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Programs - Appeals and Membership of Standing Advisory Committee– Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 224 – Opioid-Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Programs - Appeals and Membership of Standing Advisory Committee.

SB 224 will transfer responsibilities currently held by the Deputy Secretary of the Public Health Administration, as outlined in Article - Health - General §§24–902, 24–904, and 24–905, to the Secretary of Health or the Secretary's designee. The statutory amendments will allow the Secretary to assign these responsibilities as necessary to the appropriate designee within the department without requiring new legislation.

MDH promotes and enhances the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Recently, MDH restructured programs to colocate divisions with similar goals under the same administration. One recent transfer was the Center for Harm Reduction Services (CHRS) from the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA) to the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), resulting in the need for this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH
Secretary