



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

DIVISION OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Office of the Chief

Thomas E. Coe, Chief

HB1131 – Buprenorphine – Training Grant Program and Workshop

Written Testimony From: Matthew Burgan, Certified Community Paramedic
Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services

Position: Favorable

Committee: Finance Committee

Date: March 21st, 2025

My name is Matthew Burgan, and I am a Community Paramedic with extensive experience in providing care to individuals impacted by opioid use disorder. On behalf of the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 1131. This legislation is a critical step in ensuring funding for paramedic training on buprenorphine administration and supporting a workgroup to study access to this life-saving medication in Maryland.

Training Funds: Expanding Education and Ensuring Safe Administration

Effective buprenorphine administration requires specialized training. HB 1131 provides essential funding to:

- **Expand paramedic education:** Ensuring EMS clinicians are equipped with the knowledge to assess withdrawal symptoms and safely administer buprenorphine.
- **Support structured, evidence-based training:** Aligning education with best practices, such as the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act, to enhance patient safety.
- **Improve care continuity:** Training paramedics to connect patients to follow-up treatment through opioid treatment programs and healthcare providers.

Workgroup: Addressing Barriers to Buprenorphine Access

HB 1131 also establishes a workgroup to assess and improve access to buprenorphine across Maryland. By identifying gaps in care and developing policy recommendations, this initiative ensures a coordinated approach to expanding treatment availability for those in need.

Conclusion

HB 1131 strengthens Maryland's response to the opioid crisis by funding paramedic training and supporting efforts to improve access to buprenorphine. I urge the committee to support this bill to enhance patient care and expand treatment opportunities statewide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For the safety of all Marylanders and the enhancement of our Paramedics, I urge a **FAVORABLE** report for House Bill 1131.

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