



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 18, 2025

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

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 589 – Opioid Restitution Fund - Interactive Dashboard– Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 589 –Opioid Restitution Fund - Interactive Dashboard.

Senate Bill 589 would mandate the Maryland Office of Overdose Response (MOOR), in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (Department), to develop and maintain an interactive dashboard that publicly displays expenditures from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF). The dashboard will track the allocation of opioid settlement funds across state and local jurisdictions, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in the efforts to mitigate the opioid crisis.

The Department acknowledges the importance of data-driven oversight to ensure that ORF allocations are utilized effectively for opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives. The proposed dashboard will serve as a centralized tool for monitoring fund distribution, program performance, and spending trends, thus supporting informed decision-making for policymakers and stakeholders.

However, the Department notes that implementing SB 589 will require a phased approach to allow local jurisdictions and agencies adequate time to align their reporting structures with the new requirements.

Local governments receiving ORF grants may need to establish or modify internal data tracking systems to comply with standardized reporting, which could present initial administrative challenges, especially for smaller jurisdictions with limited resources. Additionally, while the legislation specifies that ORF appropriations will cover dashboard development, ongoing system maintenance, cybersecurity measures, and technical support, additional resources may be required.

The Department remains committed to assisting MOOR in this initiative and ensuring the successful implementation of measures that promote accountability in Maryland's response to the opioid crisis.

I hope this information is useful. 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](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Herrera Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH  
Secretary