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Health and Government Operations  
Committee  
*Chair*  
Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

*House Chair*  
Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg  
Before the Health and Government Operations Committee  
In Support of  
**House Bill 722**

**Bill Title Maryland Department of Health – Report on Oversight of Substance Use  
Disorder Treatment Programs and Recovery Residences**

Dear Madam Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Maryland, particularly Baltimore, has been ravaged by the opioid epidemic. Those with addictions consistently struggle to access appropriate and effective treatment programs. The recent New York Times/Baltimore Banner joint investigation into the deplorable conditions at PHA Healthcare facilities, where patients consistently relapsed and died of overdoses in deteriorated housing, underscored an urgent need to optimize the State's oversight of addiction treatment programs.

House Bill 722 would require the Maryland Department of Health to issue reports on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 to the relevant subject matter and budget committees. These reports would analyze whether revisions to COMAR 10.63 and other Department changes are preventing events like those at PHA Healthcare from occurring there or elsewhere.

We must do substantially more to address the opioid epidemic by prioritizing accountability of the Department of Health as they themselves look to ensure sufficient accountability of the treatment programs essential to fighting this epidemic.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.

**Hearing: Wednesday, February 12**