



Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health, and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill (HB) 1131 – Public Health - Buprenorphine – Training Grant Program and Workgroup

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) is submitting this letter of information regarding House Bill (HB) 1131, Public Health - Buprenorphine – Training Grant Program and Workgroup which would establish the Buprenorphine Training Grant Program to assist counties with offsetting the cost of training paramedics to administer buprenorphine and establish a workgroup to study access to buprenorphine throughout the state.

MOOR believes paramedics who are trained to administer buprenorphine are better equipped to treat patients who have recently experienced an overdose. Camden, New Jersey launched a pilot program that offered buprenorphine via emergency medical services to patients who had just experienced an overdose and were exhibiting clinical withdrawal symptoms. A review of the pilot performed by Cooper University and Johns Hopkins University revealed that patients receiving buprenorphine in this manner were more likely to have decreases in withdrawal symptoms and an increase in follow-up care with long-term substance use disorder (SUD) treatment compared to patients who did not receive buprenorphine from EMS post-overdose.¹ These outcomes are vital to ensuring a patient's continued success and recovery from SUD.²

The grant program would cost \$50,000 annually, to be paid for out of the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF), until September 30, 2030. The workgroup mandated by this bill would cost MOOR roughly \$73,000 in staffing costs associated with convening the group and writing the associated report.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Benjamin Fraifeld, Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy at MOOR, 443-346-3013.

¹ [https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644\(22\)00506-6/fulltext](https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(22)00506-6/fulltext)

² <https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/reaching-people-where-they-are-using-ems-to-start-buprenorphine/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Keller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response