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Baltimore City

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 Operation Committee

In Support of

House Bill 395

**Procurement – Purchase of Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs from Opioid Settlement
Parties – Prohibition**

Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed colleagues, I rise today in strong support of House Bill 395, legislation that ensures Maryland upholds accountability in addressing the opioid crisis that has devastated families and communities across our great state.

Originally championed by former Senator Klausmeier, I now have the honor of continuing her important work as she transitions to her new position as Baltimore County Executive—for which I’d like to congratulate her. HB395 prohibits the use of state funds to purchase opioid overdose reversal drugs from companies that were parties to settlements due to their role in this unprecedented public health crisis.

In 2020 alone, 2,799 Maryland citizens lost their lives to opioid-related fatalities (Maryland’s Data-Informed Overdose Risk Mitigation Initiative)—the highest annual total of overdose fatalities in our state’s history. Thanks to seven opioid-related legal settlements, the state Opioid Restitution Fund now contains over 150 million dollars (\$158,38,575.35). With these finances, it is incumbent upon our state to ensure that Maryland does not reward

perpetrating companies by using state dollars to purchase opioid overdose reversal drugs proffered by them.

To prevent disruptions in access to life-saving medication, HB395 permits the continuation of settlement agreements and state contracts that require drug manufacturers to provide overdose reversal drugs for the remainder of the agreement's effect. Critically, however, any contract with such companies may not be renewed after July 1, 2025. To ensure that Marylanders have access to life-saving medication without perpetuating reliance on those who facilitated the crisis, I urge **a favorable** report on HB395. Thank you.