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Legislative District 41
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 Operations Committee
In Support of
House Bill 728
Opioid Restitution Fund - Authorized Uses

Madame Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

House Bill 728 would bolster Maryland's response to the opioid crisis by expanding the authorized uses of the Opioid Restitution Fund. This bill would ensure that the Office of the Attorney General's Opioids Enforcement Unit has the necessary resources to investigate and litigate opioid-related cases, holding accountable those responsible for the devastation caused by this epidemic.

The Opioid Restitution Fund was established to allocate settlement revenues from opioid manufacturers and distributors toward prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. Thanks to seven opioid-related legal settlements, the Fund now contains over 150 million dollars. HB728 clarifies that these funds may also be used to cover the operating expenses and personnel costs for investigations and enforcement actions aimed at securing further financial restitution for the state. By investing in the enforcement capacity of the Attorney General's office, this bill

enhances our ability to pursue additional settlements and judgments, ultimately increasing the funding available for life-saving public health initiatives.

Targeted investment in enforcement will strengthen Maryland's ability to secure financial resources for ongoing treatment and prevention programs, reinforcing our commitment to combating the opioid epidemic at every level.

I urge a **favorable** report on HB728. Thank you.

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12th.