



M A R Y L A N D

Department of Detention Facilities

Jennifer Road Detention Center

131 Jennifer Road

Annapolis, MD 21401

410-222-7374

**Christopher Klein**  
Superintendent

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3/26/25

Good afternoon, Chair Delegate Pena-Melnyk, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am Christopher Klein, Vice President of the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association. Today I am testifying in this capacity and in opposition of Senate Bill 495. This is a real simple position. How about we start funding our prior commitments before we add more hands in the pot. The Opioid Restitution Fund was established in 2019 as a special fund to retain revenues received by the State relating to specific opioid judgements or settlements, which may be used only for opioid-related programs, services, supports and resources for evidence-based prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction. HB116 was also introduced in 2019 requiring local detention centers to fully implement MAT programs within our facilities by January 2023. That bill was very clear that the “Funding for the program shall be provided in the state budget. **This has yet to happen.** So even though we actually have a dedicated fund for the types of services our Detention Centers are legally mandated to provide, and a law that requires the State to fund our programs, we would rather choose not to enforce that, yet allow for others to gain access to these funds for reasons that do not match the original intended use for the funds. Maybe if the Opioid Enforcement Unit within the Office of the Attorney General investigated why they State has continued to not follow the law for funding MAT and brought that issue to resolution the MCAA might take a different position;



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however, as it stands now, we can't sit silently by and watch the one logical dedicated fund of money to actually pay for our MAT programs be handed out to other entities while we are still waiting in our 6<sup>th</sup> year to get paid. Accordingly, the MCAA urges this Committee to give SB 495 an unfavorable report.

Thank you

*Christopher Klein*

Christopher Klein, CCE  
Vice President MCAA