



Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

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

February 19, 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) 737 – Public Health - Nonopioid Advance Directives
– Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) is submitting this letter of information regarding House Bill (HB) 737, Public Health—Nonopioid Advance Directives which proposes a framework allowing competent individuals to create nonopioid advance directives and directs the Maryland Department of Health to adopt regulations for their implementation.

MOOR believes that individuals should be empowered to make their own medical decisions and we understand the intent of HB 737, which seeks to reduce the use of opioids for pain management.

However, while some other states have set a precedent for nonopioid advance directives, evidence of their effectiveness in reducing opioid misuse remains limited and has not been extensively studied. Further research into the long-term effects of these directives on both patient outcomes and patterns of opioid consumption is needed to better understand the impact.

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.

Sincerely,

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response