



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 Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 0729 - Public Health - Use of Opioid Restitution Fund and Training Under the Overdose Response Program

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for House Bill (HB) 0729, which would amend the allowable uses of the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) in State Finance and Procurement Article 7331. The suggested amendments proposed in HB0729 would better align Maryland's ORF statute with the national opioid settlement allowable uses.

MOOR is in support of efforts to align State Finance and Procurement Article 7331 with the national settlement documents, as this was a recommendation from the ORF Advisory Council in 2024, however we believe that additional amendments would provide more clarity to state and local fund administrators and grantees.

Our suggested amendments are below:

- Change any reference to the Maryland Department of Health to Maryland's Office of Overdose Response
- Change any reference to the Secretary of Health to the Special Secretary of Overdose Response
- page 3, lines 18-20:
remove "that have the 20 purpose of:"
- page 3-4:
remove "i-xi"
- In Section 7-331(j), changing the date of the report due to the General Assembly from November 1 to December 15th annually which will allow more spending data to be included.

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