



Department of Detention Facilities

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**Christopher Klein**  
**Superintendent**

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2/14/25

Good afternoon members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

For the record, I am Christopher Klein, Vice President of the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association (MCAA), and the Superintendent of the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities. I am providing this written testimony in both of these capacities and in support of Senate Bill 942 Correctional Services – Medication-Assisted Treatment Funding with amendments. As a general statement, I want to share that the law only has value if it is enforced. While I do not want to belabor the point, the original legislation HB116 was introduced in the 2019 regular session requiring local detention centers to implement Medication Assisted Treatment programs within our facilities. That bill provided various timelines for different jurisdictions to come into compliance with this law, with full implementation to be completed by January 2023. That legislation was also very clear that the “Funding for the program shall be provided in the state budget”. It is my belief that if that law, as written, was enforced, there would be no need for us to be discussing it. While I do not know all of the specific details of every MAT program that each local jurisdiction has implemented, I do know that each of us continue to question where and when we will receive the State funding for our program that is part of the law. This legislation, at face value, identifies where that funding will come from, as well as identifies how we will be paid. While I believe that the State Department of Budget and Management could have made that decision for themselves, I am thankful that this body has recognized their failure to do such and has decided to take additional action. I believe this bill still needs some work with the language and clarity; however, it seems necessary at this point. The costs of MAT programs and services come at a real price, but the alternative of continuing to lose individuals to opioid use disorder is much higher. In closing, I want to reiterate my support for this bill; however, I would be remis if I did not remind this body that this law, if passed, will also only have value it is enforced.

Thank you

*Christopher M. Klein*

Christopher Klein, CCE  
Superintendent  
Vice President MCAA