



BILL: House Bill 852 - Educational Institutions - Opioid Overdose Reversing Medications - Policy Requirements (Protecting Our Kids From Overdoses Act)

COMMITTEE: Ways & Means and Appropriations

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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The University System of Maryland Student Councils(USMSC) represents over 170,000 undergraduate and graduate students across the System's 12 institutions and 3 regional higher education centers. As advocates for student well-being and campus safety, we strongly support House Bill 852.

The legislation requires each institution of higher education to have a policy that includes:

- Updated Prevention and Awareness Training on Heroin and Opioid Addiction.
- Expanded Access to Naloxone.
- Authorization for students, staff, or other individuals to administer naloxone with liability protections for those acting in good faith.

[CDC data](#) in 2022 shows that Maryland is ranked 16th with the highest overdose rate. [Further data](#) shows that there were over 2,500 overdoses in the state of Maryland in 2023. These statistics underscore the urgent need for House Bill 852, which aims to expand overdose prevention education and naloxone accessibility in educational institutions.

Additional research from neighboring West Virginia on college student knowledge of overdoses ([Stover, et al., 2019](#)) found that while college students can identify when an overdose is occurring, more training is needed to prevent opioid-related deaths.

By providing Maryland's colleges and universities with the resources and training they need to respond to opioid overdoses, this bill will help save lives and make college campuses safer.

For these reasons, the UMBC SGA respectfully requests a **favorable report** on House Bill 852.

