HB0222_Crossover_Bill_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#/0222 – FAVORABLE

Educational Institutions - Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications - Policy Requirements (Naloxone Access Act)

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#0222, Educational Institutions - Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications - Policy Requirements (Naloxone Access Act)

The state of Maryland has an office of Overdose Response which details the use of naloxone in Maryland to prevent deaths. There are significant resources available about the use of and application of naloxone to prevent opioid deaths to be found at https://stopoverdose.maryland.gov/naloxone/

This bill serves to require the State Board of Education to utilize the resources of the Overdose Response office in the educational environment through provision of updates to a certain drug addiction and prevention education program to include information on the mitigating effects of naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medication; requiring each county board of education and certain institutions of higher education to update certain policies to include information on authorized possession of naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medication by certain individuals and immunity from liability.

This legislation adds a common sense methodology to add to the goal of preventing preventable deaths from opioid usage, not just in an educational setting, but everywhere an overdose might occur by equipping more people with the knowledge of how to act in those situations.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass crossover bill HB0222.