

**HB222 Written Testimony - Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (4/1 at 1:00 p.m.)**

*County Boards of Education - Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications - Policy Requirements*

Baltimore County Student Councils

Saan Rhyne - Eastern Technical High School Student

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

My name is Saan Rhyne and I am a student from Baltimore County. I write to you on behalf of students in Maryland to request a favorable report on House Bill 222.

House Bill 222 requires drug addiction and prevention education problems to include information about the effects of opioid-reversing medications like naloxone (Narcan). This bill requires LEEAs and some higher education institutions to allow possession of naloxone or other opioid-reversing medications for those acting in good faith.

The opioid crisis has been raging in the United States for over 30 years, claiming tens of thousands of lives each year. Naloxone and other medications can help reverse opioid overdoses, but only if the use of these medications is understood and authorized. This bill ensures that students are educated on the beneficial effects of these overdose-reversing medications.

Maryland faced 1,315 overdose deaths in 2025. Medications like naloxone are up to 98% effective, meaning that nearly all of those deaths could have been prevented with proper access to training and medication. Narcan, a common over-the-counter form of naloxone, is a nasal spray that can be easily administered by any common person.

Narcan is considered both safer and easier to use than other common medications like EpiPens. EpiPens are generally stocked by school nurses and authorized for students to carry. While these two medications hold different purposes, they are both crucial components of protecting students from

Naloxone holds no negative effects if applied to someone not experiencing an opioid overdose. This medication is safe and needed in today's world - Nationwide, an estimated 2.2 million children and adolescents have an opioid use disorder, or have a parent with one.

Students deserve the right to a safe educational environment. Substances like opioids can, unfortunately, be found in or near schools, bus stops, and other areas which students frequent. HB222 will help to prevent fully avoidable overdose deaths, protect Maryland students and citizens, and implement comprehensive education, in addition to having no fiscal effect. Accordingly, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB222 from the committee. Thank you for your time.