



Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: House Bill 705 – State Government – Attorney General – Office of the Attorney General
Enforcement Recovery Fund**

Dear Chair Wells:

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 705, which would establish the Enforcement Recovery Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to support the Consumer Protection, Antitrust, and Securities Enforcement Activities of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The bill currently describes the Enforcement Recovery Fund as consisting of money deposited from qualified recoveries, which is defined as penalties obtained by the Office of the Attorney General through certain enforcement actions.

In 2025, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill (SB) 495, which altered the allowable uses of Maryland's Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) so that the ORF could be used to contribute towards the operating expenses and personnel costs for investigations, enforcement actions, and other activities conducted by the Opioids Enforcement Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, which is within the Consumer Protection Division of OAG. Because money from ORF is already being contributed towards Consumer Protection, Antitrust, and Securities Enforcement Activities of OAG, MOOR suggests exempting money obtained by the Opioids Enforcement Unit from contributing towards the Enforcement Recovery Fund.

The ORF presents a unique opportunity to enhance Maryland's overdose response efforts. However, the funds are limited, and the state is required to make available grant funding equal to 50% of the state's portion of prescription opioid settlement proceeds. Any additional funds that are spent to support operating and personnel costs at the state level could diminish Maryland's ability to support other remediation efforts that are more proximal to overdose mortality, such as expanding access to naloxone, medications for opioid use disorder, residential treatment services, or supporting community-based recovery organizations.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Keller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Emily Keller
Special Secretary of Overdose Response
