
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 1162 – Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment Funding.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Harford County, I write to express strong support for House Bill 1162 – Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment Funding.

Providing medication-assisted treatment for incarcerated individuals struggling with opioid use disorder is an important component of addressing the broader opioid crisis affecting communities across Maryland. Local detention centers serve a particularly vulnerable population, and ensuring access to appropriate treatment programs is critical for improving public health outcomes, reducing recidivism, and supporting successful reentry into our communities.

For several years, counties have worked in good faith with state agencies and other stakeholders to implement these programs. However, the lack of consistent and reliable state funding has created significant challenges for local governments attempting to meet these expectations. As has been noted by state stakeholders, the absence of a sustainable funding structure has complicated implementation of what was intended to be a statewide priority.

House Bill 1162 provides a practical and responsible solution by clarifying the process for identifying program costs and establishing a pathway for the State to provide funding support through appropriate grant programs and other available resources. The bill creates a framework that better aligns program mandates with viable funding sources, including the potential use of opioid restitution funds where appropriate.

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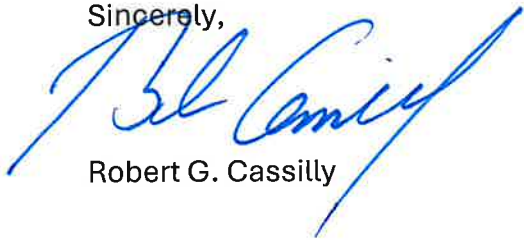
The Honorable Heather Bagnall

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Harford County believes this legislation represents a thoughtful step forward in ensuring that medication-assisted treatment programs in local detention facilities are supported in a sustainable and coordinated manner. By clarifying responsibilities and strengthening the funding structure, HB 1162 will help ensure these critical services can be delivered effectively to those who need them most.

For these reasons, Harford County respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. G. Cassilly", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert G. Cassilly