



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Delegate Heather Bagnall, Chair
Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of House Bill 1162: Correctional Services – Medication-Assisted Treatment Funding**

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Howard County Government, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of HB1162 Correctional Services – Medication – Assisted Treatment Funding, which would provide funding to counties for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs within correctional settings and expand the authorized uses of the Opioid Restitution Fund to support these efforts.

Correctional facilities are on the front line of the opioid epidemic. Many individuals entering detention facilities struggle with opioid use disorder. MAT including medications such as Buprenorphine, Methadone, Naltrexone, and Sublocade are widely recognized as the gold standard for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). The medications have been proven to help individuals with OUD by reducing withdrawal symptoms and cravings. However, many local detention centers face financial barriers when implementing and expanding MAT programs. Providing access to MAT during incarceration and ensuring continuity of care upon release has been shown to reduce overdoses and/or death, reduce recidivism, and helps the individual integrate back into society.

HB1162 would help address the financial challenges by funding detention facilities specifically to support MAT programming in a correctional setting. HB1162 recognizes the critical role correctional facilities play in addressing the opioid crisis and provides an opportunity to support these efforts through dedicated funding.

For these reasons, Howard County Government respectfully **supports HB1162.**

Respectfully,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive