



**House Ways and Means Committee
January 20, 2026**

**House Bill 222
Educational Institutions - Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications –
Policy Requirements
(Naloxone Access Act)**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 222, a bill that would educate students about the ability of naloxone to reverse an opioid overdose. More importantly, the bill would allow students and other adults in schools and on school grounds to carry naloxone. This is a life-saving policy to prevent overdoses among young people.

While school nurses can possess and administer overdose reversal drugs, the benefit is limited to times and instances where students are in school buildings during school hours. The ability for young people to carry naloxone will enable them to respond more quickly, and at times that are much more likely when young people are using drugs. This will enable students to help in an emergency situation before or after the school day, including at club meetings, athletic events, and dances.

The bill would also expand the protections from liability that exist in code for an individual who responds in good faith to the overdose emergency to include a school staff member or any other individual lawfully present at the school.

NCADD-Maryland urges this committee to give a favorable report to House Bill 222.