



To: Members, Rules Committee

From: Chesapeake Beach Mayor Patrick J Mahoney and Town Council

Subject: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill (SB) 936 General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Overdose Awareness Day

Committee Members,

On behalf of the residents and Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, I ask for your support for Senate Bill 936 recognizing August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day in the state of Maryland and authorizing the American flag to be flown at half mast on that day in recognition of family and friends lost to the opioid crisis.

In our small town of Chesapeake Beach, there have been more than 90 overdoses and 15 deaths attributed to Opioid Use Disorder since 2016, devastating families. Since January of 2017, I, the Town Council, residents of Chesapeake Beach, and partners, through our Twin Beach Opioid Abuse Awareness Coalition, have worked diligently to raise awareness about the opioid crisis with our residents, connect those in need with prevention, recovery and support resources, reduce the shame surrounding this disorder, and help save lives. Yet more needs to be done, especially to reduce the stigma surrounding Opioid Use Disorder so the people afflicted with this disease and their family members seek and get the support they need.

This bill provides several important messages from our state leaders to our residents. They are: 1) Opioid Use Disorder is a chronic disease, not a character flaw; 2) those who have died from this disease, and those who



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continue to struggle with it and their families are valued by us; and 3) overdose death is preventable.

For these reasons we support Bill 936 and encourage you to support it as well. Too many people are dead from this horrible crisis already.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patrick J Mahoney

Mayor, Chesapeake Beach, MD

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