



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 394 – STATEWIDE TARGETED OVERDOSE PREVENTION (STOP) ACT OF 2022

Sponsor: The President (By Request-Administration), et al

March 30, 2022

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 394, which would require community services programs that provide services to individuals who have substance or opioid use disorders or are at risk of experiencing a drug overdose to have a protocol to offer opioid overdose reversal drugs free of charge when the individual receives services from the program. In addition, the legislation would disallow a cause of action to be brought against businesses and business owners for actions they took to make opioid overdose reversal drugs available for patrons or employees in good faith. Finally, it would require hospitals to establish a protocol for dispensing opioid overdose reversal drugs free of charge to discharged patients who were treated for drug overdoses or have a substance abuse disorder.

The GBC is committed to supporting quality measures and policies to combat the effects of substance abuse in the Greater Baltimore region. Making naloxone widely available will significantly reduce opioid deaths. Limiting liability for businesses making a good faith effort to make opioid overdose reversal drugs available will protect businesses in the event that its distribution is necessary. By empowering businesses as partners in the sphere of public safety, more lives may be saved.

This bill is consistent with one of the key tenets in *Gaining A Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth. The pillar provides:

Government leadership that unites with business as a partner. Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 394.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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