



## House Health and Government Operations Committee February 16, 2022

### House Bill 408 Support with Amendments

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The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) urges a favorable opinion on HB 408 with certain amendments. MATOD represents over 65 healthcare organizations across Maryland that provide and promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction. MATOD programs serve over 35,000 Marylanders enrolled in opioid treatment programs (OTPs) receiving methadone and buprenorphine, in conjunction with counseling and other medical services.

House Bill 408 would require a number of health care and other community service programs to dispense naloxone free of charge to people they know to have a substance use disorder or are at risk of experiencing an overdose. MATOD supports this effort as long as organizations are able to receive the supplies of naloxone free of charge from MDH. We understand the Administration's hope is that programs will apply to become authorized ORPs and be able to access supplies of naloxone through MDH. We believe this expectation should be made clear in the law so this does not become an unfunded mandate.

We also are seeking clarification on the need for creating a new definition of "community service programs" in §8-408 that combines two levels of licensed health care providers along with other important human services. As all health care services are included under §13-3104, it is unclear why the bill includes opioid treatment programs (OTPs) and intensive outpatient programs under this new definition.

We will continue to work with the Administration and the HGO Subcommittee to work out language that meets these needs, especially ensuring that MDH provides the naloxone that the bill requires be distributed.



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*MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.*