



**House Health & Government Operations Committee  
March 30, 2022**

**Senate Bill 394  
Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022  
Support as Amended**

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*Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the pre-existing opioid overdose death fatality crisis has worsened. In Maryland, the number of opioid-related deaths increased by 20% between 2019 and 2020, and preliminary data indicates a continued increase in 2021.*

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The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) supports Senate Bill 394 as amended. The bill's intent is to ensure more naloxone is provided through service providers data show interact with people with opioid use disorders. We are pleased to have worked with the Administration on several amendments, including one that clarifies the naloxone required for distribution will be provided by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).

In 2013, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation creating the state's Overdose Response Program (ORP). The main purpose of the ORP is to facilitate the widespread distribution of the life-saving overdose antidote, naloxone. While the program has grown over the years, the Center for Harm Reduction at MDH reports that many health care and human service agencies that provide services to people with opioid use disorders do not regularly distribute naloxone.

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. NCADD-Maryland supports this effort as long as organizations are able to receive the supplies of naloxone free of charge from MDH.

As amended, we support HB 408.

*The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.*