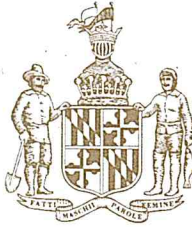


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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 138

***GENERAL PROVISIONS – COMMEMORATIVE DAYS –
OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY***

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 3, 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 138 is a very straightforward bill that simply requires the Governor to annually proclaim August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day.

Each year Maryland loses thousands of residents to drug overdoses and drug-related death. The purpose of this legislation is to clearly enshrine August 31st as a date to recognize those deaths and this epidemic and to encourage those currently suffering to seek support and treatment.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement, I have seen firsthand the impact that drug addiction can have on individuals and to their loved ones. Reducing the stigma attached to seeking treatment for addiction would save countless lives. I am hopeful that declaring August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day would be a means to reduce said stigma and to quell the suffering of those who are addicted and those who love them.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 138.