



Maryland  
Hospital Association

February 23, 2023

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, House Health & Government Operations  
Committee

Re: Letter of Information- House Bill 811 – Hospitals – Overdoses - Testing for Fentanyl

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 811. Maryland continues to cope with an opioid crisis. In Maryland, 2,342 overdose deaths in 2020 were attributed to fentanyl, according to the most recent available data.

In general, we do not believe clinical practice should be legislated. Science often moves faster than the legislative process. Given that advances happen regularly, codifying these practices may actually hamper hospitals' ability to use cutting edge technology.

In conversations with hospital members, over half of hospital emergency departments screen for fentanyl as part of regular urine toxicology screening process, or are moving in the direction of differentiating fentanyl from other opioids. Patients need to cooperate and consent for any screening.

We hope that you find this information useful as you deliberate on this legislation.

For more information, please contact:  
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