



House Bill 408

Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations
Committee

Date: February 16, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 408. This bill would, among other provisions, require community services programs to provide naloxone, free of charge, to those individuals who have an opioid use disorder or are at risk of experiencing a drug overdose.

In each of the last two years, Maryland has set records for opioid-related overdoses. For individuals suffering from an opioid-related overdose, naloxone is a life-saving intervention. It works to block opioids from binding to receptors in the brain, resulting in the almost instant reversal of an overdose.

Many county operators of community services ranging from re-entry programs to shelters recognize the effectiveness of naloxone, and regularly keep it on hand when providing services to communities with known substance use disorders. Moreover, Maryland Medical Assistance fully covers the cost of naloxone for most individuals engaged with these programs.

Altogether, HB 408 would codify best practices in combatting opioid overdose without placing a burden on existing government resources. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 408 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.