



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Thomas E. Hutchins
Kelly D. McConkey
Steven R. Weems

February 26, 2019

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Judiciary Committee
101 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) writes in opposition of HB 0116 – Public Health – Correctional Services – Opioid Use Disorder Examinations and Treatment.

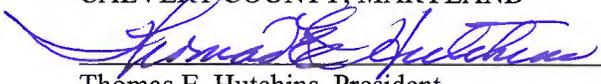
The Calvert County Detention Center (CCDC) has long operated a thorough detoxification process for inmates withdrawing from particular drugs. The CCDC does not recognize the need to apply a medical assisted treatment (MAT) program to a process that has safely, securely, and cost-effectively managed the successful detoxification of numerous inmates through the years. The cost to Calvert County to initiate such a program, based on reports from other facilities our size, could be as much as \$500,000, due to the necessary increase in mental health staffing, physical changes to the facility for securing the medications, the tracking of drug distribution, and inventory and reporting procedures.

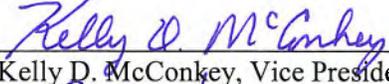
The CCDC struggles to encourage inmates to participate in the Drug Treatment Program. Staff distribution of medications designed specifically to satisfy opioid craving or reduction of the physiological effects of withdrawal from opioids would further hinder efforts to get the inmate into the treatment program. With no need to seek treatment, the released inmate is reintroduced into the community medically dependent and void of a structured plan to abstain from drug use.

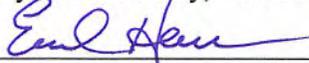
MAT must be accompanied with intense drug treatment and intense drug treatment will work without MAT; however, MAT alone will not solve the problem. The CCDC currently offers MAT within our re-entry program. Graduates from our Drug Treatment Program comprise the highest number of MAT participants of those inmates released to the community. One of the MAT medications utilized is suboxone. Detention Centers throughout the state are struggling constantly to keep suboxone from entering their facilities as contraband. Suboxone does supply a "high" to the user and is considered a "street drug" with an illegal sale value; easily hidden, it can be melted onto any sheet of paper to be ingested later. We have experienced multiple incidents of suboxone illegally introduced into the facility. CCDC security and staff safety will be threatened should a MAT protocol be implemented.

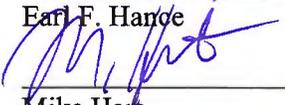
Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND


Thomas E. Hutchins, President


Kelly D. McConkey, Vice President


Earl F. Hance


Mike Hart


Steven R. Weems

cc: Calvert County Delegation

Maryland Relay for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1-800-735-2258



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February 26, 2019

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pendergrass:

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) writes in opposition of HB 0116 – Public Health – Correctional Services – Opioid Use Disorder Examinations and Treatment.

The Calvert County Detention Center (CCDC) has long operated a thorough detoxification process for inmates withdrawing from particular drugs. The CCDC does not recognize the need to apply a medical assisted treatment (MAT) program to a process that has safely, securely, and cost-effectively managed the successful detoxification of numerous inmates through the years. The cost to Calvert County to initiate such a program, based on reports from other facilities our size, could be as much as \$500,000, due to the necessary increase in mental health staffing, physical changes to the facility for securing the medications, the tracking of drug distribution, and inventory and reporting procedures.

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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Thomas E. Hutchins in blue ink.

Thomas E. Hutchins, President

Handwritten signature of Kelly D. McConkey in blue ink.

Kelly D. McConkey, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart

Handwritten signature of Steven R. Weems in blue ink.

Steven R. Weems

cc: Calvert County Delegation

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