

HB 1518 Opioid-Exposed Newborns and Parents Addicted to Opioids - Mobile Application - Pilot Program (I'm Alive Today App)

House Health and Government Operations. March 11, 2020

OPPOSE

MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

This is a well-meaning bill that unfortunately creates problems with patient autonomy and privacy and represents medical overreach. Requiring women with a particular medical condition to periodically prove they are not comatose - is discriminatory. Further stigmatizing people who are already subject to judgement and disapproval – unnecessarily - causes real harm.

People on medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, such as buprenorphine or methadone, can have almost any type of job including jobs that require operating motor vehicles. This is an extension of stigmatizing and inaccurate assumptions about people who are in treatment for opioid use disorder.

Essentially all cases of non-response would be for irrelevant reasons such as the person's cell phone did not have reception or batteries, their service expired, they were not near their phone, they lost their phone, were busy doing something else, or they found this requirement to be insulting.

What will the penalty be for non-compliance? Most of the effort in this program will be to determine how to penalize busy citizens for non-compliance with a new set of requirements imposed by statute.
