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September 16, 2022

Councilmember Charles Allen
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chair Allen,

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) is the largest medical organization representing metropolitan Washington physicians in the District. We advocate on behalf of all 12,000 plus licensed physicians in the District and seek to make the District “the best place to practice medicine”.

We thank you for holding a hearing on B24-952, the Opioid Litigations Proceeds Act. MSDC supports the creation of an Opioid Abatement Advisory Committee to manage the funds received by the District from national opioid settlements. These funds are best used to address the public health priorities around addiction and overdose, and the Society feels close oversight of the fund to assign the money fairly and equitably is ideal. In addition, I noticed the legislation has some of the best practices outlined by the O’Neill Institute at Georgetown University.

The Society’s one suggested change to is include language ensuring that at least two District licensed physicians are included on the panel. Physicians have the medical knowledge and experience to guide the Committee’s decisions on funding, to ensure that proposals or initiatives match the latest medical knowledge in this field. The District, including MSDC and MedChi DC, have numerous physicians with expertise in addiction and opioids that can provide needed guidance to this process.

Please contact our office at 202-466-1800 or hay@msdc.org to discuss further, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns about this bill or any other.

Sincerely,

Kirstiaan Nevin, MD
President
Medical Society of the District of Columbia