

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Senator Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 618
(Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program) -
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Griffith and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Taking a holistic approach is what is needed, and supporting this bill is one step closer in doing so.

As talks continue to take place people are constantly dying and families are being disconnected. This facility will be a resource hub for many people not only for people who use drugs but for people who care and want to see them succeed at their own pace.

This facility is not a comparison of Methadone clinics. Reason being instead of crowded streets people will have somewhere to get a shower, talk to a case manager, apply for a ID ,SSI Card and be able to use their disconnected phone, yes they will have access to wifi like starbucks. Unfortunately most people who need this facility get turned away from establishments every day in the United States from judgemental people. I ask you to please take that emphasis of who the people and respect them for what people are, which is human beings. Great grandparents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Mother, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Sons, Daughters, Nieces, Nephews or just a very close childhood friend. That person can be closer than we think.

That person for me was my dad who overdosed and passed October 7, 2020 one less person on this panel. Ironically William Jr myself and William Sr my dad testified in Annapolis March 10, 2020 Which was his granddaughter's 11th birthday. His grandson was born a day after he passed October 8 William III. Support this Bill so other families won't be separated too early in their lives from their loved ones forever.

Yes I would love an OPS on my block if it's a pathway for people to live healthier lives and feel good about themselves, I'm in. When I called them, the name identified as, I was told on several occasions thank for remembering my name. My dad liked to be called William Sr and I loved him, he just happened to be a person who used drugs, so I will always advocate for a healthier pathway of life for everyone. Now ask yourself does this sound like a place that will hurt the city and state or uplift it? It's a rhetorical question. Again I would love one on my block please, it would help more people than you expected.

Sincerely,
William Glen Miller Jr