



# Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation

New day. New beginning.

February 26, 2024

Maryland General Assembly  
Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

RE: HB0980 - Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Fund - Revisions

Good Day Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members.

My name is Toni Torsch, I am the Director of the Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation and in favor of HB0980.

This is important legislation that will enhance our response to the opioid crisis. It will require transparency that Marylanders deserve.

This bill will also prioritize **community based recovery organizations** as part of the solution to the opioid crisis. These organizations meet the needs of those who are struggling with substance use directly where they are in their communities with recovery-orientated services. Services including assistance with sober housing, obtaining vital documents and identification, food, job skill training and basic essentials. By dedicating resources from the Opioid Restitution Fund to recovery, we can help provide stability, change and save lives in Maryland. These funds were gained by lawsuits in the wake of tens of thousands of deaths and the destruction of lives due to opioids. And these funds must go back into the communities to bolster the fight against the opioid epidemic, offering hope and tangible support to those battling substance use disorders.

Your support of HB 980 will signal a strong commitment to public health and recovery in Maryland. Together, we can make a significant impact in the lives of our fellow Marylanders affected by the opioid crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request a favorable vote on this bill.

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*Mission: to provide assistance for substance abuse treatment and sober living; promote and provide overdose prevention programs.*