



## Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation

New day. New beginning.

March 4, 2024

Maryland General Assembly

Senator William C. Smith

Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: SB1075 - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death

Good Day Chair Smith and Committee Members.

My name is Toni Torsch, I am the Director of the Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation and in opposition to SB1075.

I am also the mother of a son who suffered a fatal drug overdose. I too was once angry and wanted someone, something to pay for what happened to my son. In those 13 years since his death, I have learned that additional laws will NOT deter anyone from using a legal or illegal drug. How many times can you be told that we can NOT arrest our way out of this crisis?

Our foundation has prevention, harm reduction and recovery service programs and in any given month, provide services to approximately 400 people. We have provided over 5000 doses of naloxone last year and saved hundreds of lives with those Narcan kits. Our treatment requests have risen 23% in one year. Do you know why we are finally starting to see slight decreases in fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses? It's organizations such as ours saturating the communities with harm reduction services and outreach.

We have made great strides in Maryland with prevention, awareness, treatment and recovery services. If this bill is passed, we will take steps backward. All the community will hear is that they will be charged with a felony crime, people who are overdosing will be left to die and you will see overdose numbers skyrocket.

Please help save lives and not create more of a crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request an unfavorable report on this bill.

Toni Torsch, Director

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