

Good Afternoon,

My name is Josh Mazer and I'm a father, resident of Maryland, and Board member of Informed Choice Maryland, and I strongly support HB1516 for the following reasons:

- Intravenous drug use is an extremely dangerous, primary threat to health and safety. It is too dangerous an activity for state government to openly condone through indiscriminate state-funded distribution of drug paraphernalia.
- This bill protects the rights of parents in Maryland to prevent their children from obtaining everything necessary to become intravenous drug users, without government interference. Needle distribution programs have no apparent mechanisms in place to prevent minors from obtaining drug paraphernalia or consorting with the active drug users who frequent the sites of these programs.
- The vast majority of drug-related deaths are from overdoses. There is no compelling evidence that the opioid outreach program saves more lives than it compromises, when the program potentially facilitates or encourages minors and adults to become drug users.
- This bill allows counties to set drug prevention and treatment programs appropriate to their citizens' needs. The bill protects citizens and especially vulnerable children from injury and exposure to communicable diseases from improperly discarded needles.

Thank you,

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