

Members of The Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing testimony in support of HB1516. I currently live in Laurel, but my husband grew up in Washington County. His parents and sister still live there-in Williamsport and Boonsboro. The heroin/Opioid crisis is so bad there. My husband has been made aware that at least 6 of his peers from high school have died from overdose (over the last 3 years!). Two of those lost also have addicted parents. Every time we are visiting the area there is a story shared of someone's family member, friend, etc., that is struggling with addiction.

This program sounds like it is doing more harm than good. As a parent I am concerned for the parents living in the area that have kids struggling, in need of HELP. The kids are able to go and get these bags full of paraphernalia without support or info as to where to reach out for help if needed. Their parents are not involved at all and do not need to be for the kids to receive these bags. This is sad and dangerous given the crisis in Washington County. I am also concerned about the needles being found in playgrounds where children play. Please hear our concerns with this program: the Opioid Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Program.

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