



FAMILY ADVOCATES COALITION TO END ADDICTION IN MARYLAND

Testimony to Oppose

HB 0705:

***Crimes Involving Controlled Dangerous Substances - Penalties -
Methamphetamine***

House Judiciary Committee

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Every year there is some new War-On-Drug policy, as if all the other incarcerations for 20, 25, or 40 years have curbed drug manufacturing, distribution, or possession. The news has been out for years now –The War on Drugs has failed –decade after decade after decade. For some reason, we fail to change our old outdated, ineffective policies, despite the plethora of evidence showing what does and doesn't work.

Adding on years of incarceration has not been shown to reduce overall drug use, and is simply a cruel and inhumane way to treat other human beings with problems.

I would like to point out that we allow America's pharmaceutical manufacturing executives to create a 25 billion dollar / year industry –in opioid manufacturing alone, and we have sent absolutely no one to jail for the 218,600 deaths caused by prescription opioids, as reported by the CDC.

It has become obvious that policy makers value profits over lives as long as the profits are made by people they perceive as like themselves, while allowing our justice system to cruelly punish those who attempt to enter the extremely lucrative drug manufacturing and marketing industry by starting a small cottage industry in their own basement or backyard.

Advocates have to miss work, fill the gas tank, and head down to Annapolis to oppose yet another bill that proposes to “arrest our way out of” our state's significant healthcare crisis, while our government does relatively little to expand our mental health / substance use disorder treatment system.

This bill is simply beyond frustrating because this same evidence to support its opposition has been provided to this Committee year after year after year.