



**Committee: Health and Government Operations**

**Testimony on: HB0953 – Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 7, 2023**

*Submitted on behalf of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR). CPSR is a statewide evidence-based organization of over 940 physicians and other health professionals and supporters that addresses existential public health threats: nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, and the issues of pollution and toxic effects on health, as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, social, and racial justice.*

**I write to urge your support of HB 0953**, which will permit the creation of Supervised Consumption Facilities, also called Overdose Prevention Centers, creating safer places for users of illicit substances, preventing death from overdose, and building the trust and connections that often lead to treatment and recovery.

I am a physician. I have been residency trained and board certified in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine. For more than 20 years I have practiced addiction medicine and worked in research on treatment of re-entering prisoners with opioid addiction. I am specialty certified by the American Board of Addiction Medicine, and I am a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. I am also an officer of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility. With all that background I cannot make any better statement in support of HB 0953 than that by our student member, Ms. Angela Geiger, who has submitted separate written testimony. Rather than burden you with more words, I ask you to take a second look at Ms. Geiger's testimony and at the policy statement of our specialty association, the American Society of Addiction Medicine (<https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2021/08/09/overdose-prevention-sites> ).

Therefore, **on behalf of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility I urge a favorable report on HB 0953.**

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