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Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 FAX 301.733.5821

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Delegate Brooke Grossman Maryland District 2B House Building Room 306 Annapolis, MD

Re: House Bill 0667 & Senate Bill 0532

Dear Delegate Grossman & the members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As a longtime business situated in downtown Hagerstown for more than 100 years, I am write to you today to speak in favor of the above referenced bills.

On many occasions, we have witnessed firsthand the horrors of persons overdosing in public areas surrounding our business. While we recognize this is a public crisis, we also understand there are actions you can take to prevent this from occurring in our streets and public areas, ultimately affecting our ability to properly serve clients who may otherwise feel threatened or uncomfortable visiting our office.

In addition, we have suffered property damage caused by individuals abusing illegal drugs. For example, several months ago a homeless person (who we understand was under the influence of illegal drugs) camped out in a port-o-potty next to our building that one of our contractors installed during the replacement of our roof. In the middle of the night, the person started a fire in the port-o-potty to keep warm which then set the entire port-o-potty on fire, charring our building and cracking several large windows.

There are more instances I can provide but suffice it to say I trust you will use your powers to address these issues.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me on my mobile at 301-991-1529.

All my best,

Christian

F. Christian Wright, IV, CIC, CRM President