

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers  
1014 Dockser Drive  
Crownsville, MD 21032

March 6, 2023

Maryland General Assembly  
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Annapolis, MD

RE: SB 464 – Criminal Law - Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues – Penalty

Dear Senators,

We support SB 464 and respectfully request that you vote for it.

Although we support an increase in prison time for offenders, we encourage exploring ways to curb or eliminate the desire for illicit drugs overall. Why do people turn to them?

It is a social issue, and simple psychology explains that when a person feels bad, all they want to do is feel good or numb their pain, which is why they turn to addictive substances.

Why do people feel bad? They have emotional baggage from childhood, and beyond. As adults the pressures of earning a decent income, paying for higher education, meeting societal obligations, relationship issues and more can weigh them down to the point where they want to escape.

Although traditional counseling and talk therapy have some benefit they take months or years to see results. There are more effective therapies available in the alternative medicine field that can alleviate the emotional distress of life's pressures. EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques, also known as Tapping) is one of them, and gives emotional relief in a fraction of the time compared to conventional mental health therapy – as cited in over 275 clinical studies.

I encourage the Committee to keep this in mind relating to bills that have to do with mental health, drug and other programs that have roots in emotional health issues.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers