

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 403
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3903 · 301-858-3903
800-492-7122 Ext. 3903
Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 7, 2023

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chairman William Smith, Jr.
Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 532 – Criminal Law – Overdosing in Public - Prohibition

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 532 before you today. Across our state, our communities continue to experience a high level of drug abuse. And while we have made a concentrated effort on substance abuse awareness and access to treatment, we continue to have individuals who have no interest in those aforementioned paths. These are the individuals that continue to overdose in our restaurants, public libraries, streets & sidewalks, etc. Often these same individuals are visited by our First Responders multiple times per day, and once assisted, a majority are simply released if they are not interested in obtaining further assistance. This legislation would provide an additional tool for our state to utilize in providing the next steps for individuals who have made the decision, often multiple times, to use drugs in public resulting in an overdose.

SB 532 would add public overdosing to the disturbing the peace ordinance, which currently carries a penalty of a \$500 fine and 60 days in jail. In doing so, this bill would include the option of the court system to refer the individual to a Drug Court or treatment facility based on the options within that jurisdiction, as opposed to incarceration. The goal of this bill is to connect substance addicted individuals to the services they need while, at the same time, relieve some of the pressure that is placed on our First Responders on a daily basis.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 532.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P.D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties