



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0953

### Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Pena-Melnyk

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0953 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Our members are strongly supportive of any attempt to try to save lives that have been affected by drug use. This bill will offer a place for drug users to safely use drugs they have purchased, get sterile supplies and emergency care in case of an overdose. Additionally, it will provide information and referrals for substance abuse counseling and treatment; HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted diseases and reproductive health education and services.

It is a recognition of the extent of the overdose and drug abuse problem that we are experiencing and will provide a pathway for those who want treatment to get it, and for those who don't to at least be safe.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.