



Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation

New day. New beginning.

February 29, 2024

Maryland General Assembly

Senator Pamela Beidle

Chair, Finance Committee

RE: SB0751 - Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Fund - Revisions

Good Day Chair Beidle and Committee Members.

My name is Toni Torsch, I am the Director of the Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation and in favor of SB0751.

This is important legislation that will enhance our response to the opioid crisis. It will require transparency that Marylanders deserve.

This bill will also prioritize **community based recovery organizations** (RCO) as part of the solution to the opioid crisis. These organizations meet the needs of those who are struggling with substance use directly where they are in their communities with recovery-orientated services. Services including assistance with sober housing, obtaining vital documents and identification, food, job skill training and basic essentials. By dedicating resources from the Opioid Restitution Fund to recovery, we can help provide stability, change and save lives in Maryland.

Community-Based Recovery Organizations” means a nonprofit organization that:

- is founded and led by members of the local recovery community; and
- provide non-clinical substance use recovery support services at no cost to the participant.

These funds should not be any type of a department budget filler, nor should the presumed complexity of the settlement agreement be a factor in allowing this small percentage be dedicated to RCOs of Maryland.

A quote taken from our Attorney General Brown’s press release on 2/2/2024, *“The opioid epidemic has claimed thousands of innocent lives through addiction and overdoses, has torn families apart, and has devastated communities across this country,”* said Attorney General Brown. *“This settlement money will help support recovery efforts in Maryland and prevent future loss where we need it most”*.

Your support of SB0751 will signal a strong commitment to public health and recovery in Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request a favorable report on this bill.

Toni Torsch, Director

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Mission: to provide assistance for substance abuse treatment and sober living; promote and provide overdose prevention programs.