



February 20, 2024

The Honorable Senator Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 427  
(Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services) - FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle and Senate Finance Committee Members,

My name is Aaron Wright, a person going on 10 years in sustained abstinence based recovery. I am the Data and Program Manager for Voices of Hope; a non-profit 501c3 Recovery Community Organization (RCO) that operates in both Cecil and Harford Counties. Our RCO employs 55 individuals either in recovery or family members directly affected by substance use. Our services utilize a stages of change model with helping individuals find, enter, and maintain recovery in the state of Maryland. SB427 would allow community based organizations to engage individuals actively using, who otherwise would be reclusive, and connect them to resources and reduce overdose fatalities with medically monitoring usage.

In 2022, we lost 2,587 Marylanders to fatal overdoses. We urge the Maryland General Assembly to authorize overdose and infectious disease prevention services, an intervention proven for over 30 years of research to decrease overdose deaths. The proposed Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program mirrors the 200 such programs already established across the world in 14 countries, including two in the United States. In all of the OPS around the world, in which millions of supervised drug use interactions have occurred, *no one has died of a fatal overdose.*

From 23 years addicted to opiates to someone who is now a Father, Husband, and a Son representing a RCO with 55 peers just like myself. I urge the emergent support and ask the Senate Finance Committee give SB427 a favorable report

Please feel free to contact me, Aaron Wright, [aaronwright@voicesofhopemaryland.org](mailto:aaronwright@voicesofhopemaryland.org) and for more information about our RCO Voices of Hope please visit [voicesofhopemaryland.org](http://voicesofhopemaryland.org)