

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 6

100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
Planning, Housing and Parks Committee (PHP)



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

FAVORABLE
SB 1075 and HB 1245
Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death
(Victoria and Scottie's Law)

March 1, 2024

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Natali Fani-González, and I am a Councilmember in Montgomery County. I am here to speak **in support of SB 1075 and its companion HB 1245: Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death (Victoria and Scottie's Law)**.

I represent a very diverse district in Montgomery County in terms of socio-economics. It includes my hometown in Wheaton and the areas of Aspen Hill, Glenmont, Forest Glen and Rockville. I am here today with my neighbors and local businessowners urging you to please support and do everything in your power to pass this bipartisan bill. The legislation would allow the prosecution of the sale of fentanyl or heroin distribution that resulted in the death or serious bodily harm of an individual in the same jurisdiction, even if the sale and death don't occur in the same jurisdiction. The legislation would not penalize individuals with behavioral and mental health conditions, those helping under Good Samaritan law principles, individuals providing medical assistance, or those distributing the drugs without monetary gain or payment.

In Montgomery County, we are providing several prevention-focused initiatives intended to help youth and young adults avoid opioids and other substances altogether, including treatment centers for youth with substance-use disorder, but that is not enough. We need to update our criminal procedures to go after those selling these drugs and killing our children. Senate Bill 1075 and its companion HB 1245 represent a crucial step in holding drug distributors accountable and preventing further tragedies caused by these dangerous substances.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Natali Fani-González
Chair, Economic Development Committee