

January 31st, 2025

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

RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0083  
(Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program) - FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle and Senate Finance Committee Members,

My name is Sam Dunn and I am writing to support Senate Bill 0083. “Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program”. SB0083 will allow community based organizations to establish overdose prevention programs to reduce overdose deaths, which continue to occur at alarming levels in Maryland.

I currently work for a Syringe Service Program in Baltimore City that serves multiple participants, providing them safe sterile tools to use drugs. This ultimately helps prevent the spread of infectious diseases that could lead to someone's death. Passing this bill and opening the first overdose prevention sites in Maryland could directly lead to saving peoples lives, by providing them with a safe place to use substances and giving them access to certain services that may be difficult to access otherwise. These sites would be able to offer certain types of medical care and prevent overdoses in real time. This would also allow people to not have to use substances in public settings where they could be arrested or injured if the setting is unsafe.

Between December 2023 and November 2024, we lost 1,689 Marylanders to fatal overdoses. We urge the Maryland General Assembly to authorize overdose and infectious disease prevention services, an intervention proven for over 35 years of research to decrease overdose deaths. The proposed Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program mirrors the 200 evidence-based public health interventions already established across the world in 14 countries, including two in the United States. Trained personnel monitor participants for signs of overdose and intervene to prevent or reverse overdoses. In addition to overdose prevention services, OPCs provide a welcoming space that helps bring drug use indoors and connect people to long-term, life-sustaining resources, like addiction services and social supports, including voluntary treatment.

This is an emergency and we urge you to act now. We ask that the Senate Finance Committee give SB0083 a favorable report.

For more information please contact Sam Dunn at [hyunkyudunn@gmail.com](mailto:hyunkyudunn@gmail.com).