

February 4, 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,

Ana Mushro 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.

being a Baltimore city resident that has lost multiple friends at the age of 31 to unnecessary and preventable overdose I care greatly about keeping people alive.

prevention sites would greatly contribute to keeping people alive as well as access to help and support,

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 about myself or this position, please contact

[CONTACT Ana Mushro] at [astarkiss@gmail.com].