

The Honorable Senator Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 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 Blake Mihm and I am writing to support Senate Bill 0083 "Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program." SB0083 will allow community organizations to establish overdose prevention sites to reduce overdose deaths in Maryland, which occur at an alarming rate.

I care about this because one of the most important people in my life died of a fentanyl overdose. His death was tragic and preventable. without a safe space to use, he was alone. Had he been at an overdose prevention site, a trained person with Narcan could have easily saved his life. Instead, he is dead.

We urge the Maryland General Assembly to authorize overdose and infectious disease prevention services, an intervention that proven from over 35 years of research to save lives. The proposed program mirrors over 200 sites in 14 countries, including two in the United States. Trained personnel monitor for signs of overdose and intervene to prevent or reverse overdoses. These spaces provide other services and bring drug users inside, while connecting them with life saving resources including counseling and 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 my position, please contact me, Blake Mihm, at BeeMihm@gmail.com.