



**Powell Recovery Center, Inc.
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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:

Powell Recovery Center, Inc. supports Senate Bill 0083 “Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program”. Overdose Prevention sites will save hundreds of lives in Maryland as such sites have accomplished in other locations, providing a future for the men and women in need in Maryland rather than an untimely death.

Powell Recovery Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 providing residential treatment beds to public health clients for over 30 years in Baltimore City. While Powell is focused on treatment services, we support and work together with community-based organizations providing harm reduction services to prevent overdose deaths.

Powell Recovery Center urges 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 support, including voluntary treatment.

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In Baltimore City alone there have been approximately 900 deaths due to overdose each year for the last six years. We believe that Overdose Prevention Sites will save hundreds of lives each year giving the men and women in need a future rather than an untimely death. We ask that the Senate Finance Committee give SB 83 a favorable report.

Kim Wireman, LCSW-C, LCADC
President/CEO
Powell Recovery Center, Inc.