

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)

Dear Chair Beidle and Senate Finance Committee Members,

My name is Jasper 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.

Overdose prevention sites save lives, reduce public drug use, and connect people to treatment/essential services. By providing safe spaces like prevention sites, we as a community can limit the spread of disease, reduce the strain on emergency services, and prevent fatal overdoses. Overdose prevention sites are a critical step toward prioritizing harm reduction, social justice, public health, and human dignity.

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 this position, please contact Baltimore Harm Reduction at [candy@baltimoreharmreduction.org](mailto:candy@baltimoreharmreduction.org).