

March 3, 2026

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

*SB 906 - Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Death or Serious Bodily Injury
(Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader's Law)*

Unfavorable testimony

I oppose SB 906 - Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death.

The approach of increasing prison sentences to address problems related to drug use has been tried before and has never worked. I urge the General Assembly to instead focus on proven solutions that prevent overdose like evidence-based substance use treatment.

SB 906 will have the unintended consequence of making a fatal overdose more likely for more Maryland families. Laws like SB 906, often called drug-induced homicide (DIH) laws, do not discourage drug use, deter drug dealing, or reduce the prevalence of fentanyl in the drug supply. SB 906 will instead lead to further mass incarceration and ballooning state prison costs.

DIH laws like SB 906 discourage reporting potentially reversible overdoses due to fear of DIH prosecution. This year's law includes no Good Samaritan protections for individuals potentially liable under the bill even if they report the overdose in good faith.

In Baltimore, drug overdoses should be treated like the health crisis they are rather than a crime problem. We will not incarcerate our way out of drug addiction.

The General Assembly should focus on prevention and treatment rather than new harsh penalties. **I request an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee SB 906.**

Elaine Arndt
Constituent, District 46