



**Daniel Carl Torsch  
Foundation**

New day. New beginning.

**Date: February 27, 2025**

**Bill Number: SB906**

**Position: UN-Favorable**

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

To: Members of Maryland's Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

My son Danny died of an overdose, and I once supported and testified in favor of this type of bill. Anger and this immense pain filled me, and I wanted to hold someone accountable. But now I know that's not the way to reduce deaths. Through my work in the community I've witnessed what has worked and is saving lives.

I'm the director of the Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation. We have a team of outreach workers providing various health-centered risk reduction services including prevention and recovery support to approximately 400 people a month. And that's partly because of this committee and the laws that you have helped enact. The penalties in this bill will undermine all of that work and progress.

If this bill passes, it won't take long for the community to hear of the penalties. They won't pay attention to the tweaks and hinted provisions of the bill. It will undo all of the great work of finally getting folks to call for help in the event of an overdose. It is with 100% certainty, deaths will rise again. These types of laws have a limited deterrent effect and have **never** been proven to reduce drug related deaths. This 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 is a well-intentioned response to Maryland's overdose crisis, but it will have the unintended consequences 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. Please don't take Maryland steps backwards.

It is for these reasons that I am respectfully requesting an un-favorable report.

Toni Torsch, Director

Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation

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