

March 6, 2026

In Opposition to HB1386:

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

I request an unfavorable report for HB1386. The approach of using longer and longer prison sentences to address problems related to drug use has been tried before and has failed miserably. While the deterrent effect of HB1386 will be negligible, it will impact mass incarceration and state prison costs. Drug-induced homicide (DIH) prosecutions discourage people who use drugs from reporting potentially reversible overdoses for fear of harsh criminal penalties. I sincerely urge the General Assembly to focus on investments in trauma-informed prevention, treatment, other harm-reduction measures rather than new harsh penalties.

Sincerely,
Katie York

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