



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 7

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1386, *Criminal Law — Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Death or Serious Bodily Injury (Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader's Law)*

Dear Chair Bartlett,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1386, *Criminal Law – Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Death or Serious Bodily Injury*. I want to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to Delegate Tomlinson for his continued leadership on this issue and for the thoughtful revisions reflected in this year's version of the bipartisan legislation. Those changes demonstrate a willingness to listen, refine, and move this policy forward in a way that strengthens accountability while responding to concerns raised during prior deliberations. I am grateful for the sponsors' commitment to advancing this work.

HB 1386 takes a meaningful step toward accountability for individuals whose unlawful distribution of heroin or fentanyl results in another person's death or serious bodily injury. Under current law, there are gaps in how we address cases where drug distribution leads to fatal or catastrophic outcomes. This bill fills those gaps by establishing a distinct felony offense and providing for enhanced penalties for distribution that causes such harm.

The overdose crisis continues to devastate families and communities across our State. Holding accountable those who knowingly distribute these lethal substances is an essential component of a comprehensive response, one that integrates public safety measures with sustained public health strategies to prevent further loss of life.

While HB 1386 is an important and necessary step, I want to acknowledge that it alone will not solve the challenges we face. I remain committed to working with legislators, advocates, and affected families to pursue even stronger penalties and comprehensive approaches that address the root causes of drug-related harm and dismantle the economic incentives that drive trafficking and distribution.

In closing, the passage of *Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader's Law* would send a clear message that Maryland stands with families who have lost loved ones and that we will not tolerate the distribution of substances that cause such profound harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Luedtke", written in a cursive style.

Dawn Luedtke  
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7