



March 10, 2026

**House Judiciary Committee  
TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION**

*HB 1386 - Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Death or Serious Bodily Injury  
(Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader's Law)*

Broken No More is an organization composed primarily of parents and other family members who have lost a loved one to overdose. Our goal is to support health-based drug policies that have been demonstrated to decrease overdose deaths so that no one else must experience the horrific pain of losing the one they love.

**Broken No More strongly opposes HB 1386 - Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death (Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader's Law).** This bill would create harsh new penalties for individuals found liable for distributing heroin or fentanyl if someone gets seriously hurt or dies after using the drugs. This approach of increasing prison sentences to address problems related to drug use has been tried before and has never worked. We urge the General Assembly to instead focus on proven solutions that prevent overdose like evidence-based substance use treatment.

HB 1386 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 HB 1386, 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. HB 1386 will instead lead to further mass incarceration and ballooning state prison costs.

DIH laws like HB 1386 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. Stories of harsh penalties and DIH prosecutions will circulate and will lead people who use drugs to be hesitant to reach out for help. This could make Maryland's overdose crisis worse at a time when we are finally seeing progress in preventing fatal overdose.

At Broken No More, our parents have worked for the implementation and strengthening of Good Samaritan Laws to eliminate the fear of calling for help during an overdose situation to save the lives of other parents' children. We want the first thought that a person has during an overdose situation to be to call for help, not that they can spend decades in prison. DIH laws, by causing the latter, are antithetical to Good Samaritan Laws, and parents bury children who could have been saved.

The General Assembly should focus on prevention and treatment rather than new harsh penalties. **Broken No More urges the House Judiciary Committee to oppose HB 1386.**

Sam Snodgrass, PhD

Board of Directors, Broken No More/GRASP (Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing)