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Legislative District 35B
Cecil and Harford Counties

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Health Occupations and
Long Term Care

Public Health and
Minority Disparities

Chair

Harford County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1378-Criminal Law-Opiods- Distribution Causing Death of a Minor

House Judiciary Committee

March 6, 2020

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

While the possession, distribution, and manufacturing of an opiod or opiod analogue may be subject to criminal prosecution, **causing the death of a minor by distribution of an opiod or opiod analogue is not a specific crime under State law.**

At present, a drug dealer may not have the slightest concern about to whom they sell drugs; this bill *will and shall* make them think twice when distributing deadly controlled substances to a minor. Under this bill, distribution includes the sharing of an opiod or opiod analogue by an adult.

HB 1378 makes it a crime to distribute an opiod or an opiod analogue, **the use of which causes the death of a minor.** This person shall be subject to imprisonment not exceeding 30 years. The sentence imposed shall be consecutive to and not concurrent with any other sentence imposed for any crime based on the act establishing the violation.

The bill takes into consideration a person who, in good faith, seeks, provides, or assists with the provision of medical assistance for a person experiencing a medical emergency after using an opiod or an opiod analogue.

This legislation is needed to help deter individuals from selling, distributing or providing heroin and/or fentanyl to our vulnerable children under the age of 18 years old!

I respectfully ask for a favorable report for HB 1378 as amended from the Judiciary Committee to protect our children from those that prey on them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Teresa E. Reilly'.

Delegate Teresa E. Reilly

District 35B, Cecil and Harford Counties