

To whom it may concern,

My name is James Cobuluis jr. I want to start by thanking you for your time, and thank you for giving me a chance to speak about why I think this bill is important.

I am a recovering addict. I never thought I'd be the person am standing before you today, I have been in many situations that I am not proud of. One particular thing I would like to speak about today.

Many years ago, during my active addiction I found myself in a situation where a friend of my girlfriends was over at our hotel room. Her friend overdosed and I panicked and didn't know what to do. I knew if I called the police I was going to go to jail because I had a warrant for my arrest and I had drugs on me. I had my girlfriend take her to the closest gas station and call 911. This is something I am very ashamed of. It's not the person I am today. I am disgusted that I was more concerned with me staying out of jail then the safety of this woman. Had this law been in place I know I would have called 911. I know that because I'm not a bad person. I made a bad decision for fear of being arrested.

I believe this life will change things. People in active addiction find themselves in bad situations sometimes and if they know that they are safe to call 911 they will stay and help the person instead of sending them away, or not calling I know this because that's what I would have done.

I feel so awful for the choice that I made and it saddens me especially when I meet people who this directly affects, but again I am not that person now, I acted out of fear. Today I serve my community by actively volunteering with local organizations to share awareness and education as well as harm reduction items.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my story. I hope it gives you a different perspective on how this law can make a difference, and how important it is