

**Bill Number: HB550**  
**Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County**  
**Opposed**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,**  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,**  
**IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 550**  
**MAKING ONE OUNCE OF MARIJUANA A CIVIL VIOLATION**

I write in opposition to House Bill 550, making up to one ounce of marijuana a civil offense. House Bill 550 is premature and a piecemeal approach to the complex problem of how to deal with marijuana.

Currently the Legislature has a task force studying all marijuana related issues. This task force is studying issues such as legalization, taxation, decriminalization, expungement of past offenses and a myriad of other issues. To pass House Bill 550 now is premature and the task force should be permitted to complete its work. To embark on this piecemeal approach of this complicated issue is a mistake.

In addition, one ounce of marijuana is a lot of marijuana (see the attached photo). If divided it could easily be used for distribution on some level.

I request an unfavorable report to allow the task force this legislature set up to finish its job.