

Decriminalizing Paraphernalia  
FAVORABLE Testimony by Deborah Agus, JD  
HB0720

Addiction is a brain disease and it is imperative that we use every possible tool to increase our response in saving lives and promoting treatment. Every step towards this goal is worthwhile.

To the contrary, every single barrier in the way of promoting health and saving lives must be removed.

Perpetrating confusion and the threat of arrest and incarceration is not only counter-productive to public health, but it is cruel and unethical and just plain wrong.

Thus, as the Executive Director of BHLI and Adjunct Associate Professor of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and as a lawyer, I urge you to pass [HB0720](#) to de-criminalize the possession of specific paraphernalia.