

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair  
And Members of the  
Judiciary Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB 0488 – Controlled Dangerous Substances – De Minimis Quantity – UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members,

As an ordinary citizen, not any type of expert, when I read down the list of controlled dangerous substances for which the de minimis quantity will be expanded to be handled as a civil offense under HB 488 I am shocked. If I understand correctly, currently only Marijuana under 10 grams is covered as a civil fine.

Under HB 488 “De minimis quantity of a controlled dangerous substance” means less than: (1) 10 grams of marijuana; (2) 2 grams of cocaine; (3) 1 gram of heroin; (4) 1 gram or 5 tablets of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA); (5) 40 user units of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD); (6) 40 user units of methadone; (7) 2 grams of methamphetamine; or (8) 40 tablets of oxycodone.

Forty tablets of oxycodone is a small amount? Could a person become addicted by consuming 40 tablets of oxycodone? Forty user units of LSD is a small amount? What can 40 user unity of LSD do to a person’s brain?

Please consider carefully what the affects of these de minimis quantities of all of these dangerous controlled substances can do to an individual, whatever their age before approving this bill. I understand the desire to reduce the number of people who are convicted of criminal offenses because they are drug users, but if a person has 40 tablets of oxycodone or 40 user units of LSD in their possession, are they not likely to share or sell some or all of those drugs? Are they not likely to be leading others to addiction? Even if they are only trying to pay for or satisfy their own need for drugs?

Sincerely,  
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