



January 19, 2021

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

House Bill 372 (Criminal Law – Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Decriminalization) –
FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee members,

PIVOT is a Baltimore organization in support of the House Bill 372 (Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization). PIVOT is a non-profit that connects women released from the corrections system with critical services needed to reclaim their lives, rejoin their families and reinvigorate their communities. We write this letter in support of amending the existing criminal law to remove items that could be used to consume drugs from what is considered drug paraphernalia, effectively decriminalizing possession of those items.

As a community-based organization, we know the toll that contact with the criminal justice system places on individuals, their families, and their communities. We also know that the “war on drugs” has been ineffective and instead of a meaningful reduction in drug use, we have seen continued drug use and racist mass incarceration.

Decriminalizing drug paraphernalia would support reduction in infections, ensure safe disposal of needles, and save money by averting HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C infections.

PIVOT supports an anti-racist, harm reduction and public health approach to supporting our communities, and we believe enacting House Bill 372 would be a large step in the right direction.

We ask that the Judiciary Committee give HB372 a favorable report.

For more information about PIVOT or this position, please contact Emily Thompson.

All the best,

Emily

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Thompson".

Emily Thompson
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