



February 21, 2022

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

House Bill 372 - Baltimore City - Board of License Commissioners - Licensee Hours of Operation - UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee members,

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (BHRC) is an advocacy organization that mobilizes community members for the health, dignity, and safety of people targeted by the war on drugs and anti-sex worker policies. As a certified Overdose Response Program, naloxone distributor, and syringe service program, we have provided essential and emergency health care services across the state for years. We vehemently oppose HB372, as it would do extreme harm to public health and safety.

For decades, public health and scientific institutions have proven that prohibition does not work. To claim that instituting a curfew on certain licensed establishments in the name of public health and safety contradicts the fundamental principles of public health. Furthermore, people who rely on the employment and services offered in this historic part of Baltimore do not deserve further punishment by the state.

In the midst of multiple public health crises, vulnerable Baltimoreans deserve to not be pushed further into the margins as this legislation would enact. We ask that the Judiciary Committee give HB372 an unfavorable report.

For more information about Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition or our position, please contact our Director of Mobilization, Rajani Gudlavalleti at rajani@baltimoreharmreduction.org