

Written Testimony in Support of SB762: Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Decriminalization

My name is Sam Wu, and I am a resident of Baltimore City, MD (21218). I'm writing in support of SB762 for the decriminalization of drug paraphernalia. When drug use supplies are illegal, even registered syringe service program participants fear and experience harassment and citation by law enforcement. This, in turn, can limit access to syringe service programs, sterile syringes, and other safer drug use supplies (such as safer smoking kits) that have been shown to reduce the spread of HIV, hepatitis, and other blood-borne diseases – and that have been shown to save lives. Being able to access syringe service programs without fear of harassment and citation by law enforcement can also increase access to other support services, such as case management, healthcare, and housing, which often work closely with syringe service programs. Decriminalizing drug paraphernalia would also allow existing syringe service programs to expand and begin to offer other services. I urge you to vote in favor of SB762 for the decriminalization of drug paraphernalia, and thank you for your time.