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March 7, 2023

**TO:** The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** SB0762 – Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Decriminalization  
(Support)

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The Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 762, Senator Carter's bill to remove Controlled Dangerous Substance ("CDS") paraphernalia used for administration or consumption of CDS (as opposed to paraphernalia for manufacture or distribution) from the criminal prohibitions related to CDS paraphernalia. Senate Bill 762 also lowers the penalties related to CDS paraphernalia used for manufacture/distribution.

As the opioid pandemic has illustrated, drug use and abuse are public health hazards that should be addressed holistically. Criminalizing drug users, as opposed to treating them, can be costly and counterproductive. Senate Bill 762 is a commonsense measure to decriminalize the mere possession of drug paraphernalia.

We urge a favorable report on SB 762.

cc: Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us