

OPPOSE HB 173 (Del Moon - Drug Proponent)

Dear Delegates–

This bill would decriminalize the use or possession of drug paraphernalia for all drugs including highly potent THC products, including marijuana. This is the camel's nose under the tent related to David Moon's (and former/disgraced "Doctor" Del. Morhaim) bill <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/hb1054?ys=2022RS&search=True> who wanted to allow residents to be stumbling, crawling, incoherent virtual medicine cabinets of illicit, addictive drugs. Paraphernalia contains residue and for some, toxic levels of drugs, particularly if children come in contact with these devices.

This bill or similar fails each year. Delegates should be aware that extremely high potency THC products being everywhere in Maryland will lead to the use of more and toxic drugs. Removing the laws which allow detention, evaluation, and/or injection into health or judicial systems poses innumerable ways that children and "parents" who use drugs can and will harm children.

Laxity in drug/drug use laws bring about a perpetually-stoned state. Operators of trains, cars, elevator repair, food preparation workers...all of it... tainted with this perpetual danger.

When HB0001/HB0837 was passed last year, ZERO attention was paid to the long term dangers for people in our State. Are you ready for a state where children will be on street corners injecting, inhaling or poisoning their bodies with controlled substances facilitated by paraphernalia? Where I live this is already happening. There was ZERO attention paid to how to stop children from using drugs and only flippant discussion of how the State will drastically take on a new war -- stopping drugged siblings from poisoning, dosing or killing their younger siblings as drugs, addiction and paraphernalia become omnipresent and unhidden.

To paint this bill as the cause of all those horrible nightmares-to-come on this bill isn't balanced. But as these nightmares affect Maryland's children, trust that you'll be searching for any tool in the toolbox to stop what drugged children will be doing to each other and society when there are no stopgaps.

Maryland was 4th in the nation for drug overdose deaths. Bills like this have made it worse and worse.

Please vote NO to this and other escalation bills encouraging drug use.

Humbly
~vince