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TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Adam Spangler
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB706 Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization- **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 706, Delegate Cardin'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. House Bill 706 also lower 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.

House Bill 706 is a commonsense measure to decriminalize the mere possession of drug paraphernalia. We urge a favorable report on HB 706.

cc: Committee Members