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January 29, 2025

TO: The Honorable Will Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 370 – Drug Paraphernalia for Administration -
Decriminalization- **Favorable**

The Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on **Senate Bill 370**, Senator McCray's bill on behalf of the Baltimore City Administration 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 370** 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 wholistically. Criminalizing drug users, as opposed to treating them, can be costly and counterproductive.

Senate Bill 370 is a commonsense measure to decriminalize the mere possession of drug paraphernalia. We urge a favorable report on **Senate Bill 370**.

cc: The Honorable Senator Cory McCray
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members