

January 29, 2025

The Honorable William C. (Will) Smith, JR., Esq.  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 370  
(Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization) - FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members,

Good Trouble Church supports Senate Bill 370 (Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization). This legislation will revise existing criminal law by removing items that could be used to consume drugs from their classification as drug paraphernalia. Many of us, including myself, have lived and or living experience with drug use.

A grass-roots, Christ-rooted, faith expansive community coming together in the name of healing and human flourishing, Good Trouble Church is a ministry centering love and freedom, leadership and liberation, community care, and sacred ceremony. Started by those who have been made vulnerable by systemic racism and the war on drugs, Good Trouble Church places harm reduction at the center of everything we do.

For many years, the punitive policies enacted in the name of the racist war on drugs have forced people who use drugs to face incarceration, suffer social and emotional isolation, and engage in risky behaviors that put their health and that of others at risk. We believe that our community and every community in Maryland deserve more. We believe people who use drugs deserve dignity, respect, equitable health care, and justice. Senate Bill 370 is a step towards healing instead of harm.

Every scientific and medical organization to study the issue has shown that legal access to sterile supplies reduces the spread of HIV, hepatitis, and other blood-borne diseases. For these health benefits to materialize in Maryland, people who use drugs need to feel as though they can access supplies without law enforcement repercussions.

Allowing people to use drugs more safely with the proper tools is positive for everyone in the community- not only in slowing/stopping the spread of infectious disease, but also in lifting the stigma that isolates people who use drugs.

In 2021, this bill successfully passed through the general assembly where it was then vetoed by then Governor, Larry Hogan. We hope that under the new administration, this legislation may have an opportunity to once again be codified into law. We urge you to give Senate Bill 370 a favorable vote.

Thank You,  
Greg Frailey  
Harm Reduction Lead, Good Trouble Church  
gregfrailey@gmail.com  
717-798-1764