

Written Testimony for **HB 556/ SB 370**: Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization: Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Judiciary & Judicial Proceedings Committees:

This bill reads: "...FOR the purpose of **repealing the prohibition** against a person using or possessing with intent to use, delivering or selling under certain circumstances, or manufacturing or possessing with intent to deliver or sell under certain circumstances drug paraphernalia to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled dangerous substance..." So this bill would NOW allow a person to use or possess with intent to use, deliver or sell or manufacture or possess with intent to deliver or sell drug paraphernalia to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled dangerous substance.

Also, a subsequent violation penalty is being **lowered** from imprisonment of 2 years down to 1 year or the fine being **lowered** from \$2,000 to \$1,000. In another section of the bill, the penalties are being **lowered** from imprisonment of 4 years down to 1 year and the fine being **lowered** from "up to \$25,000" down to "up to \$1,000".

What is the incentive for: 1. **allowing** a person to use or possess with intent to use, deliver or sell or manufacture or possess with intent to deliver or sell drug paraphernalia to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled dangerous substance; and 2. **lowering the criminal penalties** of (c) (1) (i), line 10 in this bill? How is this aimed at getting drugs off our streets and out of the hands of repeat criminals or even out of the hands of our children?

I see no good outcome of this bill. I see only more drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia being on our streets, since the penalties are being lowered. What incentives do criminals have for changing their criminal behavior if they are:

1. allowed to use, possess, deliver, sell or manufacture drug paraphernalia, and 2. if the penalties are being lowered for the subsequent offenses of the crimes redefined in this bill, which states "...a person may not use or possess with intent to use drug paraphernalia to plant, propagate, cultivate, grow, harvest, manufacture, compound, convert, produce, process, prepare, pack, repack, store, contain, or conceal a controlled dangerous substance"..., especially if they end up with very little jail time and very low fines like these?! Very little to no incentive at all.

Please **VOTE NO** on this bill to show Marylanders that you are capable of being tough on crime!

Thank you.

Trudy Tibbals
Mother of 3 and Maryland resident