

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Chair Delegate Luke Clippenger
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
100-101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SUPPORT of House Bill 0556
(Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization) - FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Clippenger and House Judiciary Committee Members,

[ORGANIZATION NAME/INDIVIDUAL NAME] [MISSION STATEMENT], supports House Bill 0556 (Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization) which will revise existing criminal law to remove items that could be used to consume drugs from what is considered drug paraphernalia, effectively decriminalizing possession of those items.

[SEVERAL LINES DESCRIBING YOUR ORG (MISSION) AND THE HARM REDUCTION WORK OF YOUR ORG OR IF AN INDIVIDUAL, WHY YOU CARE -- how removing penalties for having sterile drug use supplies would benefit your organization and community. This is a good place to talk about how the current protections for SSP participants aren't enough to keep people safe, as well as the role of secondary distributors in reaching people with accessibility barriers so they can stay safe and connected (if applicable)].

[OPTIONAL* ADD IN 1-2 TALKING POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE EXPERIENCES SHARED ABOVE]

We believe that this bill will simplify Maryland's paraphernalia laws and clarify that possession of harm reduction supplies to prevent infectious disease is not a crime. **We ask that the House Judiciary Committee give HB0556 a favorable report.**

For more information about [YOUR ORGANIZATION] or this position, please contact [CONTACT NAME at CONTACT EMAIL].