

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

Dear Judiciary Committee:

This bill reads: “...**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**; altering a prohibition against a person possessing or distributing controlled paraphernalia under certain circumstances; etc...”

Dear Judiciary Committee:

This bill is an attempt to lower the Penalties for a person convicted of [possess(ing or] distribute(ing) controlled paraphernalia under circumstances which reasonably indicate an intention to use the controlled paraphernalia for purposes of illegally administering a controlled dangerous substance. The Penalties for a conviction of this nature are way too lenient to begin with, and now they are being **lowered**. 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 **lowering the criminal penalties** 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 the penalties are being lowered, especially if they end up with very little jail time and very low fines like these?!

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

