

CORY V. MCCRAY
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 327

Bill Title: Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal

Hearing Date: February 5th, 2026

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB 327. **SB 327** is a common-sense public health and public safety bill that updates Maryland's paraphernalia law without weakening drug enforcement.

Right now, legally obtained household items; like spoons, scales, or small plastic bags; can be treated as criminal paraphernalia based on suspicion alone, even when no drugs are present. This bill brings clarity and fairness by ensuring legal items remain legal.

SB 327 will also reduce syringe litter and improve safety in our communities. When people are not afraid of arrest, they are more likely to carry used syringes and dispose of them properly. That means safer sidewalks, playgrounds, and neighborhoods. The CDC supports policies like this to reduce syringe litter and related risks.

In addition, this bill strengthens Maryland's overdose prevention efforts at no cost to the State. Ending paraphernalia penalties increases participation in syringe service programs, which reduce overdoses, prevent HIV and hepatitis C, and save taxpayer dollars. It also allows the Department of Health's Rapid Analysis of Drugs program to expand statewide, giving every county better data on the illicit drug supply. At a time of a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall, this is a practical and cost-effective solution.

Finally, SB 327 does not legalize drugs or weaken law enforcement. Drug possession, sale, and manufacturing remain illegal, and states with similar laws continue strong enforcement efforts.

For these reasons, **SB 327** is a balanced and responsible approach, and I respectfully ask for a **favorable report**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
45th District