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Testimony for the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 5, 2026

SB 327 - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal

FAVORABLE

The ACLU of Maryland urges a favorable report on SB 327, which seeks to repeal certain prohibitions relating to drug paraphernalia and controlled paraphernalia. For over a century, U.S. drug policy has prioritized punitive approaches under the guise of stopping drug use and production. The results have been drugs becoming cheaper, more available, and potent, record-high overdose deaths.[1] To save lives and promote healthy communities in Maryland, it is urgent that we shift our drug policy away from punishment and towards health-focused strategies.

Arresting people for the possession of drug paraphernalia has done nothing but subject otherwise law-abiding citizens to arrest, prosecution, and possible imprisonment – potentially their first exposure to the criminal justice system – all

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