

February 3, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 327
(Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions -
Repeal) - FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Senate Judicial Proceedings
Committee Members,

I, Dr. Edward Traver, strongly support Senate Bill 327 (Criminal Law - Drug
Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal) which will end all
penalties for drug paraphernalia. This is a common-sense, evidence-based bill that
prioritizes the health and safety of all Marylanders.

I write to plead for you to do everything in your power to pass House Bill 0173 to
decriminalize drug paraphernalia. I am an assistant professor and infectious disease
doctor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and a resident of District 46 for
over 7 years. Every day I take care of patients who are infected with **HIV, Hepatitis B,
and Hepatitis C**. These chronic viral infections cause cancer, secondary infections, and
early death. These viruses are acquired by using equipment (paraphernalia) that had
previously been used by someone else. **Using new, sterile equipment completely
prevents the transmission of these infections from using drugs**. Repealing the
penalties for drug use equipment will enable people to better access sterile equipment
and avoid these terrible, costly infections.

On behalf of our neighbors and fellow citizens, **I ask that the Senate Judicial
Proceedings Committee give Senate Bill 327 a favorable report**. It will serve to
make their lives safer, healthier, and longer. For more information about this position,
please contact me at etraver@ihv.umaryland.edu.

Sincerely,



Edward C. Traver, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Resident of Baltimore City, District 46