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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,

Legal Action Center strongly supports 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.

Legal Action Center is a nonprofit organization that uses legal and policy strategies to  
fight discrimination, build health equity, and restore opportunity for people  
with prior criminal legal system involvement, substance use disorders, and  
HIV/AIDS.

As an organization, we support policies that create environments that restore  
opportunities and build health equity while prioritizing care over  
criminalization. Addiction and substance use disorder must be treated with a public  
health approach, not a criminal one. Removing the State penalties for paraphernalia  
prioritizes the health, dignity, and safety of people who use drugs.

We believe that this bill will simplify Maryland's criminal law, improve infectious  
disease and overdose prevention response, and keep legally obtained items legal. **We  
ask that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee give Senate Bill 327 a  
favorable report.**

For more information about this position, please contact Teresa  
Miller at [tmiller@lac.org](mailto:tmiller@lac.org).

Sincerely,  
*Teresa Miller*  
Teresa Miller  
National Director of Health Initiatives  
Legal Action Center